

Hafa Adai!

New law gives fresh grads 'work experience' **PAGE 3**  
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# Saipan Tribune

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# \$1M bail for wanted man

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A man who had gone missing in Illinois and is accused of sexually assaulting a child was tracked down to Saipan and is now awaiting extradition.

» **Man accused of predatory sexual assault of a child**



File photo released by the Moline Police Department shows Sean P. McDonnell.

Citing the seriousness of the charges, a judge imposed a \$1 million cash bail on Sean P. McDonnell, 39.

McDonnell is wanted in the county of Rock Island in Illinois, on multiple

**See BAIL on Page 4**

**CPA wants ship out of Saipan port**

By BEA CABRERA  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority wants the controversy-laden MV *Luta* vessel out of the Saipan seaport and back on Rota.

The unmanned and inoperable ves-

**See CPA on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Richard Thaler of the University of Chicago wins the Nobel economics prize.

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### NATION

At least 10 are killed as fires rage in California wine country.

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### FOCUS

Facebook and Google are still inadvertently promoting fake news.

**PAGE 17**



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# Local

## 'Recruitment fees should be included in calculation'

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

Five of the 22 Chinese workers who are still on island claim that recruitment fees were left out of the amount offered them by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and the CNMI Department of Labor.

Speaking through a translator, the five workers told Saipan Tribune that they were only offered \$4,000 up to

\$6,000—amounts that they deem too low to accept. They reportedly paid recruitment fees amounting from \$5,000 to over \$10,500.

In a statement, Imperial Pacific International clarified that the responsibility to pay the remaining workers belongs to their employers.

"Nevertheless, [IPI] offered humanitarian support to the workers in an effort to reunite them with their families and to provide some monetary relief

pending full payment from their employers," the statement said.

The IPI statement said the Department of Labor's investigation of the total amount owed the workers is ongoing.

"Imperial Pacific International supports the full payment of all amounts legally owed to these workers," the statement adds. "Imperial Pacific will continue to work with [CNMI Labor] to help resolve the outstanding is-

sues with the workers and their employers."

One of the workers claimed that he paid over \$10,500 in recruitment fees but was reportedly offered just \$4,800 in compensation. He wants additional compensation to cover his recruitment fees and compensation for the period that he has been without work on the island. The worker reportedly worked on the casino through MCC International from February 2017 until March 2017.

Lin, a worker who has been working on the casino since July 2016 up to the end of March 2017, was the most heated. IPI representatives initially offered him about \$6,800, which soon became \$9,000 after a second round of negotiations. Lin is demanding \$18,000. He reportedly paid about \$5,400 in recruitment fees to get to Saipan.

Another worker is demanding between \$10,000 and \$12,000. This worker was initially reportedly offered over \$3,000 that was bumped to \$4,000. The worker is a father of a 10-year old boy and a 3-year old girl.

A worker, identified as Jin, was reportedly injured during his time working on the casino. He showed Saipan Tribune his left shoulder, which has a prominent lump that he said he got while on the job and he believes is the cause for the restricted movement on his left shoulder. Jin reportedly paid over \$10,200 in recruitment fees and demands to be compensated between \$14,000 and \$15,000, including payment for his injuries and medical fees as well as compensation for his idle time on the island. Jin reportedly worked from September 2016 until the end of March 2017. Jin was reportedly offered about \$5,900.

The mellowest of the group was offered \$6,000. Though he feels he deserves more, he told Saipan Tribune that he is willing to negotiate. He said he is a father of two: a 13-year old daughter and a 9-year old son.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed since last week to obtain comments from IPI.

The workers claimed that they received a call from the U.S. Department of Labor

shortly after declining the most recent negotiation attempts of IPI.

USDOL reportedly urged the workers to accept the offer, with the reported promise that USDOL will urge IPI to pay the difference. However, they declined since they want to include the recruitment fees in the calculations.

The workers said the amounts offered them were reportedly based on DOL's calculation of the amounts owed each worker.

According to the workers, three batches have already accepted the offers. The 23 workers who accepted the offers have already left the island.

"I want to ensure that whatever is owed to me I would receive before I leave," Lin told Saipan Tribune.

"I won't have the peace of mind if I don't get what I am owed because I fear that they would not pay me," he said, adding that he knows how much he is owed. "We want to get [what is owed us] before we leave the island, regardless of who pays."

The remaining Chinese workers alleged in a previous statement that IPI has attempted to coerce them into accepting the offers of the casino.

The remaining Chinese workers were hired by MCC International. The workers entered through the CNMI-only visa waiver program, a program that enables passport holders of China and Russia to enter without obtaining visas from the U.S. embassies in their countries. Chinese and Russian passport holders that enter the CNMI through the visa waiver program are considered tourists and are only allowed a 30-day stay in the CNMI.

## Rotary to donate to LV shooting victims

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A portion of the proceeds from the Saipan Rotary Club's upcoming "Las Vegas Night" will be donated to the victims of the Las Vegas shooting tragedy.

Past Rotary president Ivan Ilmov raised the idea of donating a portion of the proceeds of "Las Vegas Night" at the weekly Rotary meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni Restaurant yesterday.

According to Rotary president Thomas Thornburgh, the club has a fellow Rotarian who's been affected by the tragedy—a fellow mem-

ber with ties to a victim of the shooting.

Since the tragedy has been called the Las Vegas shooting and since the Rotary fundraiser is called Las Vegas Night, the club saw it fit to allocate funds from Las Vegas Night to be appropriated to helping those who are still fighting for their lives in the aftermath of the tragedy, Thornburgh said.

According to Thornburgh, he fully supports the plan to donate some of the funds from the event to the victims because it was truly a tragedy for those affected.

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be hosting its annual Las Vegas Night on Nov. 18.



### RETRO PAY

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), right, shakes vice speaker Janet Maratita's (R-Saipan) hand at the governor's conference room, soon after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, enacted House Bill 20-108, or the retroactive lump-sum payment bill.

## NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

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**Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation**

Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.



# New law gives fresh grads ‘work experience’

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

A bill that legislates work experience is now law.

Public Law 20-13, which Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) authored and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres enacted in

late September, would allow fresh graduates to claim up to four years of job experience—even if they don’t really have that experience—if they apply for a government job.

Under the newly enacted Senate Bill 20-09, fresh graduates with an associate degree

can claim having two years of experience, while fresh graduates with a bachelor’s degree can claim four years of experience—that is, if they apply for a government position related to their field of study.

“Gov. Torres was very pleased to sign SB 20-09, SD1

into law and commends Sen. Quitugua and the House and Senate for passing the legislation for the benefit of the Commonwealth’s recent college graduates, who are looking to enter public service,” said press secretary Kevin Bautista in a statement.

He pointed out that students from the CNMI have been “venturing away from home” due to the lack of job opportunities. A statute in the Civil Service Act states that only individuals with past experience may be hired in government offices, regardless of their ed-

ucational attainment.

“Such policy is in contradiction to the CNMI Scholarship and municipal financial assistance policies where students that are granted financial assistance while in college must return and work in the CNMI,” said Quitugua in a previous statement.

According to Bautista, the Torres administration shares the same view—that P.L. 20-13 would provide more opportunities for college students to return to the CNMI.

“The government must continue to be a partner in setting up our college graduates for success. The administration has made significant strides in attracting more recent graduates to come back home, and we hope to extend this trend to all our government agencies,” said Bautista.



**MCDONALD'S DONATION**

McDonald's Saipan operator and owner Marcia Ayuyu hands over a check worth \$5,000 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter for its Club 200 fundraising event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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# 4th of alleged CW-1 scam victim testifies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

An alleged victim of a CW-1 scam told the federal court yesterday that he took loans from several relatives in Bangladesh just to raise 12 *lakh takas* to come to Saipan.

*Taka* is the currency in Bangladesh. One *lakh* is equivalent to 100,000 *takas* (about \$1,219).

Belayet Hossain, the fourth of five alleged job scam victims, took the witness stand yesterday after alleged victim

Abu Bakkar Beg completed his testimony.

The defense's cross-examination on Hossain will continue today, Wednesday, at 8am.

On trial are brothers Mukse-dur Rahman and Md. Rafiqul Islam, Rahman's wife, Shahnur Akter, TBK Auto Cares owner David Trung Quoc Phan, and Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez.

During cross-examination by defense counsel Robert T. Torres, Hossain said that, before coming to Saipan, he made the first payment of

200,000 *takas* to a Fahima Akter in Bangladesh in 2015.

Two days before going to the U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh, he paid 500,000 *takas* to Islam, Hossain said.

Every time he made payments, he would call Rahman.

Hossain said that Rahman told him to give another 500,000 *takas* to his brother.

Torres presented Hossain with a copy of several loans that he apparently borrowed from several relatives in Bangladesh.

Hossain admitted that he did

not sign the loan documents, but stated that his mother and family members were present when he received the money.

Hossain said does not know anything about welding in Bangladesh, but he was coming to Saipan to work as a welder for TBK Auto Cares. Hossain said Rahman told him that indicating his job in the contract is only a formality.

He said he worked for only 25 days at TBK Auto Cares and that when he first reported for work he was assigned to cut bushes. Hossain said Phan

also gave him auto works, but he did not know how to do it.

He said he told Rahman to give him his money back so he could go home, and that Rahman stated he would give him back half of the money.

Hossain admitted not seeing Rahman receiving his money, but stated it's because the payments were in Bangladesh and that Rahman was on Saipan at that time.

When asked about a discussion among the complaining Bangladeshi workers about a plan to hold a hunger strike, Hossain said they did not have food so there's no reason for the strike.

Hossain now works in a store.

Hossain said he already paid 150,000 *takas* for the loans by sending money to his mother and brother in Bangladesh.

## BAIL

From Page 1

charges of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.

He was arrested on Saipan last Friday and was taken yesterday afternoon before the Superior Court for a bail hearing.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio granted assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas' request to impose a \$1 million bail on McDonnell, citing the charges he faces, the danger he poses to children in the CNMI, and his status as a flight risk.

Kim-Tenorio set the extradition hearing for Nov. 13, 2017.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski served as counsel for McDonnell.

A joint effort between the U.S. Marshals and the Department of Public Safety led by police sergeant George F. David led to McDonnell's arrest in Suape last Friday at about 1pm.

An Illinois judge issued an arrest warrant against McDonnell last Sept. 27 on charges of three counts of criminal sexual assault and four counts of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child. The Illinois judge imposed a \$250,000 bail.

Barcinas charged McDonnell yesterday with one count of fugitive from justice. She said that McDonnell is charged in Illinois with a crime punishable by death or imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, and is therefore subject to extradition.

There was no information as to when McDonnell arrived on Saipan.

The Moline Police Department recently sought the community's help in locating McDonnell.

The Moline Police Department said McDonnell went missing under mysterious circumstances and that he was last seen driving his black Dodge truck last Sept. 11.



Sean P. McDonnell avoids the camera as correction officers led him out of a Superior Court courtroom shortly after a hearing yesterday in which Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a \$1 million cash bail on the defendant. McDonnell was arrested on Saipan last Friday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## VOTE

From Page 1

Torres and the Commonwealth Election Commission has been denied. No other details were included in the notice.

Jeanne Rayphand, who represents John Davis Jr. in the case, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the U.S. high court's order is the final and only order.

That means the decision of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit and the U.S. District Court is in effect, Rayphand said.

She said "Northern Marianas descent" is a racial classification and U.S. citizens who are not of "Northern Marianas descent" may not be denied the right to vote—a fundamental right.

"No United States citizen should ever be denied the right to vote. And that is what this case was about: the right to vote," she said.

Joseph Horey, who represents the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., filed the petition before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Torres and the CEC, and its officials.

Attorney General Edward

Manibusan, however, informed the U.S. Supreme Court's clerk of court last June 30 that such filing was unauthorized. Manibusan pointed out that none of petitioners—Torres, CEC, and CEC officials—have the authority to file the petition.

The petitioners' question to the U.S. Supreme Court was whether the term "persons of Northern Marianas descent" is an impermissible "racial" classification under the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

When asked yesterday about the high court's decision, Horey said the denial of the writ means that, with respect to voting rights on land issues, one chapter is closed.

The rest of the book, however, remains to be written, he said.

"From now on, a political approach to the issue, not a judicial one, will be necessary," he added.

Possible options, Horey said, include a constitutional amendment redefining the term "persons of Northern Marianas descent" in a less "racial" way, and/or negotiating an amendment to the Covenant so as to include the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment among the CNMI's exemptions from the U.S. Con-

stitution (as is the case for American Indian nations).

He said these kinds of issues can be explored in various contexts and forums, including Section 902 discussions, a constitutional convention, or the Second Political Status Commission.

"Diligence, patience, flexibility and creativity will be essential to the ultimate success of any such efforts," Horey said.

Last February, the Ninth Circuit denied the NMDC petition to intervene in the lawsuit.

The Ninth Circuit judges awarded Davis \$16,237 in attorney's fees and costs, to be paid to Davis' counsel, Rayphand.

The Ninth Circuit affirmed Manglona's 2014 decision in December 2016.

In a 51-page decision issued in May 2014, Manglona ruled that the term "Northern Marianas descent," as defined in Section 4 of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution, is a racial classification, and may not serve as the basis for preventing qualified voters from voting on proposed amendments to Article 12.

"Even if Northern Marianas

descent were not a racial classification, it would be unconstitutional to deny non-NMDs the right to vote on Article 12 initiatives because the restriction is not narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling state purpose," Manglona said.

Manglona issued the ruling in favor of Davis, a registered voter in the CNMI who sued CEC, its chairperson and executive director, and then-CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos in his desire to vote on any initiative to amend Article 12.

Article 12 restricts the acquisition of permanent and long-term interests in real property to persons of NMD.

Article 18 Section 5(c) prohibits qualified voters who are not NMDs from voting on Article 12 initiatives.

CEC and its co-defendants, through the Office of the Attorney General, appealed to the Ninth Circuit.

The NMDC, headed by John D. Gonzales, filed petitions to intervene in Davis' lawsuit and seek a rehearing en banc or by the full Ninth Circuit.

NMDC noted the "lack of action" by the Attorney General's Office, which decided not to challenge the Ninth Circuit ruling.

sel is believed to be occupying space at the Saipan seaport that blocks commerce and the cost for the use of space remains unpaid as the bill continues to pile up.

At a recent CPA board meeting, ports committee chair Pete Reyes said the board needs to start planning what to do with MV *Luta*.

"It is preventing other ships [from coming] in and I am worried that if there is a tropical storm, what are we going to do with it? We cannot just take it out because it needs a captain and a crew," Reyes said.

"At one time, I was informed by our port manager [Rodney James Taisacan] that the seaport manager allowed the ship to be taken out by our own captain at their expense. But I feel that it is a problem because it may be a possible litigation and liability issue," he added.

MV *Luta* is at the center of a civil case between investor Takahisa Yamamoto and the owners of Luta Mermaid LLC. The ship is currently anchored at the Charlie Dock.

According to CPA board member Barrie Toves, this might be another Freedom Air

fiasco, with the CPA being left with nothing to collect, referring to the airline company that has declared bankruptcy.

"Obviously, MV *Luta* is not moving anywhere. They are currently being charged a higher rate to stay on Saipan because its homeport is down on Rota."

Toves said that one way to help those who are squabbling over MV *Luta* is to convince them to relocate the vessel to its homeport on Rota.

"The ship is also hampering operations. Other ships come in...and they are going to need space. So it's going to cost them again to get their own captain and be on board to take the ship out. The cost is piling up," he added.

Quoting the U.S. Coast Guard, CPA lawyer Robert Torres said "the ship cannot be relocated, it will be stationary until it is fully manned."

"Right now, it is dead in the water," he added.

According to CPA executive director Chris Tenorio, efforts to communicate with the owner of Luta Mermaid LLC have not been answered.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from Luta Mermaid LLC about the issues brought up by the CPA but has not received a response as of press time.

# Investor wants to set up a floatel

By BEA CABRERA  
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REPORTER

A Chinese investor is seeking permission from the Commonwealth Ports Authority to anchor a passenger ship by the Charlie Dock that will serve as a floating hotel for two years.

The ship, called M/V *China Star*, a 400-foot luxury cruise ship, would accommodate tourists from China and will be anchored permanently at the dock as a "floatel."

CPA board member Pete Reyes told the board that he has already met with the prospective investors.

Port of Saipan manager Rodney James Taisacan, who was present at the meeting with investors, said, "The group is interested to come in is a floatel, a vessel that is also a hotel where the passengers will be staying. They are bringing in visitors and staying overnight."

"I advised them to submit a proposal and indicate their plans because the place where they are interested in is the Charlie Dock, which is not feasible at this time. We use the Charlie Dock for military vessels and other cruise ships," he added.

Once the investors submit their proposal, CPA will study it if it is feasible, Reyes said.

"They did their homework. Obviously, they looked at the topography of the seaport because they know every location, whether it's owned by Department of Public Lands or not," Reyes said.

"We informed them that there is a request for proposal for an equidock. But it requires substantial work to build a floating ramp or dock, plus there are other requirements, like if they want to set up a restaurant at the equidock," he added.

The investors also appear interested in placing their vessel where the M/V *Luta* is currently situated.

"In the meantime, they want to place it where M/V *Luta* is placed but [M/V *China Star*] will occupy the entire length of the area there. We informed them to bring the proposal to the board. We have given them a possible location but it requires board action," He added.

According to CPA board

member Barrie Toves, the floatel will alleviate the shortage in hotel rooms on island but he would also like

to see the interisland ferry system revived.

"The [CPA] board will have to see the formal pre-

sentation of M/V *China Star* and see how we can move forward," he said. "We currently lack space to accom-

modate the interisland ferry system. Also, there have been talks between the leaders on Rota and mayors of

Guam to develop interisland tourism but we have insufficient transportation infrastructure."



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## DYS gets over \$300K for Kagman center's expansion

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Division of Youth Services plans to further expand the Kagman Community Center to accommodate three times the number of students it already does.

According to Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian Sablan, the center has been open to students in the Kagman area since December

2016 but has only been able to accommodate a maximum of 50 students.

Sablan said the Division of Youth Services has been applying for a grant through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s Community Development Block Grant program to fund the center's expansion.

Finally, after two years of applying for the grant, the division was able to secure over \$300,000 for this fiscal year.

Sablan is already excited about the upcoming developments at the center. The money—exactly \$323,081—will not only fund renovations to the facilities, but also for its expansion.

With the expansion, Sablan said the center will be able to accommodate three times the number of students that they already accommodate.

The grant will also fund more classrooms for the cen-

ter, additional bathrooms, and shower rooms.

Sablan said the expansion will serve two purposes: ensuring a place for students and the youth of Kagman where they can get active and a place where they can do their schoolwork—basically a means for the youth to stay out of trouble.

If a disaster hits the island, the center, which also does double duty as an evacuation center, will be able to accommodate more people, Sablan said.

Because the division is under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the center is also used as a homeless shelter. In the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor, it was found out that the center's current space was not enough. With the expansion, it ensures that there will be a spacious shelter for Kagman individuals to run to.

According to Sablan, the scope of work is due no later than Dec. 1. Once that is finalized, the renovations and expansion will begin in early 2018.

In related news, the Tinian Community Center will also be renovated and expanded. According to Sablan, when the application for a grant to expand the Kagman Community Center was submitted, the division also sent applications for both Tinian and Rota centers.

The division was approved a grant of \$43,509.80 for the Tinian center's expansion and renovation through the CDBG program.

Unfortunately, the application for the Rota center did not succeed but, according to Sablan, she will continue to try and apply.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### PH consul to hold NMI outreach

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will conduct a mobile consular outreach in the CNMI on Nov. 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, 2017 (Monday to Friday) at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 9am to 6pm.

Those who wish to renew their passport, submit your application at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor (top of the Mini-Mart Store), Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, break time).

For any inquiry about passport renewal, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. (PR)

#### Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at

682-0050 or email at ccamarinas@gmail.com. (PR)

#### Scheduled water outages today

There will be a scheduled water outage today, Oct. 11, 2017, from 8am to 5pm in the Chalan Piao, San Antonio, and Chalan Kanoa areas. A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., will repair a leak on an 18-inch transmission line. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after. Repairs will be located at the corner of Guangdong Hardware in As Lito.

There will also be a scheduled water service outage today in the Puerto Rico, Sadog Tasi, Lower Base, Lower Navy Hill, and Garapan areas, from 8am to 5pm, to allow CUC's contractor, GPPC Inc., to abandon a 2-inch waterline on Isa Drive, Sadog Tasi and transfer customers onto the 12-inch water main to provide a more effective and efficient operation. This project is part of an ongoing Cross Island Road Phase 3 project on Capital Hill. (PR)



**HOLE-IN-ONE**

Congratulations to Yoon Seok Goon, a customer of Saipan Country Club who made a hole-in-one shot on Sept. 27, 2017, using an iron club No. 9 and a Titleist ball. The feat was witnessed by Kim Chaiang.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-17-028

#### TANK 104 REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL POWER PLANT 1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Removal and Disposal of Tank 104 at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan.

The project consists of the Cutting for Disposal and Removal of Tank 104 (now empty and cleaned) together with off-site disposal of all tank materials, including its steel floor.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both Pre-Bid and Site Visit.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-028 Removal and Disposal of Tank 104, Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 25, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 16, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Max Simian, CUC Technical Manager for Oil – via email max.simian@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM  
Purchasing Officer

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-18-002

#### KAGMAN WATERLINE & BOOSTER STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**General Description:** This work consists of replacing the existing Kumoi booster station and relocating it to the Chacha and Kagman Road intersection. It also includes the rehabilitation of an existing deep well, the installation of a new 6" PVC distribution, and the installation of a new 8" PVC transmission waterline along Kagman Road. It will also involve the reconnection of existing customers onto new or existing distribution lines within the project area.

**This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the USEPA.**

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 5, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both the Pre-Bid Conference and the Site Visit.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-002, Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project," to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office**, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 26, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer – via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nick Schreiner, Water-Wastewater, Engineer – via email address nick.schreiner@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant – via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM, JR.  
Purchasing Officer

The Division of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Office of Animal Health & Industry, recently conducted a Livestock and Poultry Survey for producers of cattle, swine, goats, poultry, ducks, pigeons, turkeys, rabbits and deer on Saipan.

Two survey teams were created.

Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, the CNMI State Veterinarian, said the survey was intended to guide the CNMI's response in the event of a disaster, so that a meaningful and effective disaster response and coordination could be mustered and achieved.

"The survey conducted showed the following number of animals on Saipan: 377 heads of cattle, 999 swine, 170 goats, 4,840 chickens, 196 ducks, 212

## Saipan animal survey seen to guide disaster response

pigeons, four turkeys, two rabbits, [and] 16 deer.

"With this information, a realistic disaster planning, preparedness and response could be worked out. Supplies, materials, animal feeds, and pharmaceutical needs for poultry, livestock and other farm animals could easily be made available because the numbers are there and are current to work with," he said.

Dela Cruz said there are a total of 49 producers, ranchers and farmers in which 22 represented cattle raisers and 36 swine producers, 19 raising goats, 18 raising ducks, 38 raising poultry, nine raising

pigeons, two raising turkeys, two raising deer and one raising rabbits, with only one producer, Saipan Egg & Poultry, operating a commercial egg laying operation with about 2,000 layers.

"Of the 22 cattle producers, seven were leasing government land to raise their animals, which varied from one to 25 hectares, with a total of about 62 hectares of government land being leased to raise cattle.

The above numbers are combined numbers of all the animals in each category, regardless of sex or age. Obviously, this does not present a clear picture of Saipan's farm

animal populations. The numbers also do not represent the total animal population within each category and more detailed classification and wider coverage must be planned and worked out," he said.

Dela Cruz added that in the case of an outbreak such as an incursion of foot-and-mouth disease, avian influenza, exotic Newcastle disease or classical swine fever (hog cholera), reliable data on farm animals is needed.

"A decision to vaccinate,

depopulate or to treat the target animals would be more efficient because we would know how much vaccine or medicine would be required, or in the event of depopulation or an eradication effort, the decision whether to incinerate, bury, landfill or do composting would be easier to reach or make because they would know how much mass or animal carcasses they would be dealing or working with," he said.

Acting Lands and Natural Resources secretary Augustin Kaipat said the next survey will separate the animals by sex and age groups.

"The survey was started and completed in September. The work was not inclusive of the available farm animals on Saipan and a more comprehensive survey will be undertaken hopefully in the next year. We thank Dr. Dela Cruz for initiating this survey and our team members: Robert Magofna, Joe Takai, Manny Quitano, and Ben Cabrera," Kaipat said. (PR)

F H B . C O M / Y E S

## USDOL raises contractor minimum wage in Guam

On Sept. 15, 2017, the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division published a *Federal Register* notice announcing the increased hourly minimum wage rate for workers performing on or in connection with federal contracts covered by Executive Order

Labor secretary to adjust minimum hourly rate each year.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, the minimum wage rate for covered workers will increase from \$10.20 to \$10.35 per hour.

The E.O., which was signed on Feb. 12, 2014, permits the

On Jan. 1, 2015, contractors were required to pay covered workers at least \$10.10, and the minimum wage has increased annually by an amount determined by the Labor secretary. (PR)

## Torres signs House Local Bill 20-31 into law

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres recently signed House Local Bill 20-31, S1, D1, which rezones all lots immediately located on the eastern side of Beach Road, directly adjacent to the main road

beginning from As Perdido Road to the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road as "mixed commercial" zoning districts.

Authored by Saipan and

Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, the bill was passed unanimously by the SNILD Delegation and becomes Saipan Local Law 20-12. (PR)

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# Red Cross home fire campaign visits Rota

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's Home Fire Campaign kicked off the 2017 Fire Prevention Month with a round of smoke alarm installations on Rota over the weekend.

In partnership with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and other members of the Fire Prevention Month Committee, the team was able to successfully install a total of 71 smoke alarms and educate residents on home fire safety and typhoon preparedness.

Seven times a day someone around the nation dies in a fire. The Red Cross Home Fire Campaign aims to reduce deaths and injuries from home fires by as much as 25 percent over the next few years. The Red Cross and thousands of campaign partners have helped save numerous lives and installed more than a quarter of a million smoke alarms in homes all across the country since the campaign launched in October of 2014.

"Installing smoke alarms cuts the risk of someone dying from a home fire in half, so we're joining with groups from across our community to install smoke alarms," said J.D. Tenorio, Emergency Services director of the NMI Chapter.

The DFEMS provided a great deal of support with the logistics and actual implementation of the program. "We are grateful for the support and partnership we have with DFEMS," said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Chapter.

"The American Red Cross continues to be an effective partner for DFEMS not only in emergency response, but more in prevention programs. Their smoke alarm installation program is critical in fire prevention across the country and here in the CNMI. DFEMS is proud to partner again with the Red Cross in saving lives across the CNMI," said DFEMS Commissioner Clyde Norita.

Red Cross volunteers, together with DFEMS personnel, have spent hundreds of hours going door to door installing smoke alarms on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian over the past year. Installations on both Saipan and Tinian will be taking place in the coming weeks and months. For more information or to avail of the program, call the Red Cross office at 234-3459.

## SIMPLE STEPS TO SAVE LIVES

Even as the Red Cross and other groups install smoke alarms in some neighborhoods, they are calling on everyone to take

two simple steps that can save lives: create and practice their home fire escape plan and check their smoke alarms.

There are several things families and individuals can do to increase their chances of surviving a fire:

- If someone doesn't have smoke alarms, install them. At a minimum, put one on every level of the home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Local building codes vary and there may be additional requirements where someone lives.

- If someone does have alarms, test them today. If they don't work, replace them.

- Make sure that everyone in the family knows how to get out of every room and how to get out of the home in less than two minutes.

- Practice that plan. What's the household's escape time?

## DOWNLOAD RED CROSS APPS

People can learn how to help prevent a home fire and what to do if one occurs by downloading the Red Cross Emergency App.

Children can earn points and incentives in a fun, gaming environment while learning how to prevent a home fire and other emergencies in the Monster Guard: Prepare for Emergencies App.

The First Aid App has information on what to do for burns, broken bones, and breathing and cardiac emergencies. The apps can be downloaded for free in app stores or at red-cross.org/apps.

## WHAT PEOPLE CAN DO

People can visit redcross.org/homefires to find out more about how to protect themselves and their loved homes from fire. They can become a Red Cross volunteer by contacting 670-234-3459.

They can also help by donating to Red Cross Disaster Relief by visiting redcross.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS. Donations to disaster relief will be used to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small. We respond to nearly 66,000 other disasters every year and most of these are home fires.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org. (PR)



The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and members of the Fire Prevention Month Committee kick off the 2017 Fire Prevention Month with smoke alarm installations on Rota over the weekend.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The team was able to install a total of 71 smoke alarms and educate Rota residents on home fire safety and typhoon preparedness.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services provided support with the logistics and actual implementation of the program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Devastating coconut rhino beetles found on Rota

Rota forester James Manglona reported to acting Lands and Natural Resources secretary Augustin Kaipat last week the discovery of coconut rhinoceros beetles on Rota—a type of beetle that has already decimated swaths of coconut trees in Guam.

According to Manglona, 20 adult beetles and many grubs were found when a coconut tree fell to the ground.

Specimens were collected and sent to Guam for professional review, said CNMI state forester Victor Deleon Guerrero.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has also been notified, said Kaipat.

"Mr. Dallas Berringer of USDA-APHIS had been notified by Rota Quarantine and, so far, we have been instructed

to have the specimens of adult and larvae sent to Guam for examination," Kaipat said.

Berringer said the specimens will be reviewed by a national identifier that will give the legal authority to provide any support for survey, eradication, and control efforts "and we anticipate official species confirmation toward the end of next week," Kaipat added.



Larvae of the coconut rhino beetles are collected from a decaying coconut tree.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the meantime, DLNR plans to set up an incident command to manage the response and identify short-term resources that the CNMI can make in the next three months.

Berringer noted that increased trapping must take place to identify potential infestation, an islandwide visual survey for signs of coconut rhinoceros beetle presence must be conducted, and a complete sanitation of the site radiating outwards should be done.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog warned that coconut rhinoceros beetles, or CRB, are detrimental to coconut palms and agriculture.

"I ask our residents on Rota to report signs or discoveries of the coconut rhinoceros beetle to our CNMI Forestry. Our coconut trees play an important role in our heritage and are so significantly useful. CRB effects are damaging to our small island and containment is needed to eradicate the Rhino Beetles before they spread to other areas," Hocog said.

To report a sighting, call CNMI Forestry at 256-3321 or Department of Lands and Natural Resources at 322-9834. (PR)



Samples of coconut rhino beetles are bagged to be sent to Guam for examination.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Traces of coconut rhino beetles coconut tree eating patterns.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**Northern Marianas  
Humanities Council**  
*Navigating the Human Experience*

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Board of Directors Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce four vacancies on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross-section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four time annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Frankie M. Eliptico, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai. Letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2017. For additional information please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at [www.northernmariannahumanities.org](http://www.northernmariannahumanities.org).

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#### ABOUT ELYSE ERIKSSON

A lifelong entrepreneur, Elyse Eriksson has explored a wide variety of business ventures from concrete products to crafts. She served as the Director of Training and Business Counselor at the International Trade Center-Small Business Development Center, Dallas, Texas and has obtained the designation of C.G.B.P., Certified Global Business Professional. Currently as the Managing Director of Export Connector, Elyse offers export-import training and consulting. Her goal is to help new exporters see that exporting can be easily understood with The Riddle of the Exporter™ 8 Step Process.

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or call the CNMI SBDC Office at 670-664-3018.

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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### The JFK papers will be fodder for conspiracy theorists

**H**is presidency was brief—two years, 10 months, two days. Yet the life and murder of John Fitzgerald Kennedy still fascinate Americans 53 years after shots rang out on Dealey Plaza.

Later this month, a trove of secret documents related to JFK's assassination is slated to be released by the National Archives. What those documents reveal, if anything meaningful, remains unknown. President Donald Trump can block the release, if he chooses, on the grounds of national security. It's hard to imagine any scenario in which national security remains a concern more than five decades later, so we hope the president lets the documents emerge. These would be among the last of the government's assassination files; some tax documents and grand jury materials would remain under seal.

Nevertheless, if Americans think the records' release will once and for all debunk the swirl of conspiracy theories—LBJ ordered it; the mob did it; no, the communists were behind it—they're probably wrong.

Conspiracy theories reflect a natural human tendency to search out information that fits our view of the world or that makes sense of the perplexing. "We tend to reject information or reject evidence that we disagree with," Viren Swami, a psychology professor at Anglia Ruskin University in Britain, told National Public Radio last year. "And we do that for a very simple reason. We don't like it when we feel wrong. ... We don't like thinking that our view of the world, our perspective of the world, is incorrect."

It's why people suspicious of government cling to the theory that 9/11 was not the handiwork of al-Qaida but actually an inside job perpetrated by the Bush administration. It's also why some Americans insist that former President Barack Obama is not a U.S. citizen. It's not a fringe fraction of Americans that subscribes to each of those beliefs—it's actually a third of the country's population, according to University of Miami political scientists Joseph Uscinski and Joseph Parent.

As for JFK and Dallas, conspiracy theories were more than just a byproduct of a bewildered, saddened nation groping for answers. They created a cottage industry that produced a raft of books and documentaries and, of course, "JFK," Oliver Stone's feature film take on what happened. There's profit in conspiracy, and it's easy to see why: An AP-GfK poll in 2013 found that more than half of Americans believe Kennedy's murder was a mission concocted by multiple conspirators, while only a fourth thought Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

The information up for release now includes more than 3,000 secret documents. In 1992, Congress ordered that virtually all assassination documents be released within 25 years. That deadline has arrived—and unless Trump steps in, the National Archives must comply by Oct. 26.

JFK scholars say they don't expect any big revelation. One potential thread that interests them: Oswald's six-day trip to Mexico City, and his visits there to the Cuban and Soviet embassies, weeks before Kennedy's murder. The purpose for the trip remains murky, scholars say, and the documents might shed some light.

But what America shouldn't expect is an end to the conspiracy theories that have surrounded JFK and Nov. 22, 1963, for half a century.

Kennedy himself, at a commencement speech at Yale University in June 1962, talked of the longevity of myths. "The great enemy of truth is very often not the lie—deliberate, contrived and dishonest—but the myth: persistent, persuasive and unrealistic."

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### The swamp in Washington still stinks

**W**hen Tom Price was pushed out of his cabinet job last month for sticking taxpayers with \$1 million worth of private jet travel, the White House explained that his behavior was unacceptable in an administration devoted to draining the Washington swamp.

I wonder where the former Health and Human Services secretary got the notion that it was OK to mix public service and personal privilege? The values of a presidential administration flow from the top. President Donald Trump has been signaling loudly through his personal behavior that it's fine to use government service for private enrichment.

"Trump's rhetoric about draining the swamp is breathtakingly phony," said Karen Hobert Flynn, president of Common Cause, the good-government organization.

Unlike every predecessor for more than four decades, Trump hasn't divested his financial holdings, only claiming they're being run by his sons. His hotels in Washington and elsewhere are hustling foreign business. He doubled the membership fee for his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida to \$200,000 between Election Day and his inauguration.

He has weakened important restrictions on lobbyists serving in government after campaigning against the power of special interests, and turned the clock back on transparency.

The Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a watchdog outfit, has filed more than 150 legal actions against the Trump administration. Many of these are freedom-of-information actions, but some are lawsuits charging that Trump is violating the emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution forbidding presidents from receiving payments from foreign governments.

Enrichment is a family affair. Trump's daughter Ivanka, while holding a White House position, got trademark permits from China for her clothing and jewelry line, which she still owns. Her accessories also are made in India, which she's scheduled to visit in November and meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Ivanka's husband, Jared Kushner, and his associates sought foreign investors in a financially troubled Kushner-family-owned building on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. He has been given a wide-ranging portfolio in foreign affairs.

"Jared and Ivanka have all kinds of potential conflicts," said Noah Bookbinder, executive director of CREW.

Donald Trump Jr., the president's oldest son, is raking in \$100,000 for speaking at a Texas university, a fee usually given to people who've actually accomplished something.

Price was cashiered. But not Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt or Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, who have also shown a fondness for taxpayer-subsidized private flights. The Interior Department's inspector general has launched an inquiry into Zinke.

**By ALBERT R. HUNT**

Bloomberg View

Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg View columnist. He was the executive editor of Bloomberg News, before which he was a reporter, bureau chief and executive Washington editor at the Wall Street Journal. Readers may email him at ahunt1@bloomberg.net.



Although the administration has toughened rules on lobbying by officials after they leave government, it has blown a hole in restrictions on lobbyists seeking government jobs. The No. 2 people at the Departments of Energy and Interior were previously major lobbyists for the industries they now oversee. Last Thursday, Trump nominated Andrew Wheeler, who has lobbied for Murray Energy Corp., a coal giant that has paid millions of dollars of fines for safety violations, to be the deputy EPA administrator.

By one count, 100 registered lobbyists had been brought into the Trump Administration by June, with 69 working in the same terrain they lobbied. But the most egregious appointment may have been the billionaire investor Carl Icahn, who after being brought in as a special regulatory adviser then sought relief to benefit a company he owns, Bloomberg News revealed. He has since departed.

A runner-up would be Squire Patton Boggs, the law firm and Washington lobbying powerhouse, which in April formed what it called a "strategic alliance" with Trump's New York personal lawyer, Michael Cohen.

Transparency is a four-letter word to the Trump brigade. A Washington watchdog group filed suit in August demanding disclosure of visitors to some White House offices, as was the practice under President Barack Obama.

Then there's the Trump inaugural committee. It raised \$106.7 million but spent only part of that on the festivities. What are they doing with the rest of the money? Beyond a \$3 million pledge for hurricane relief, it won't say.

Now comes the mother of all possible conflicts-of-interest: the tax bill that goes to Congress this fall. Trump insists that the tax "framework" offered up in September by the White House and Republican congressional leaders shows that a GOP tax plan won't benefit him. The facts about at least three of its provisions suggest otherwise.

There's a simple way to prove whether he's telling the truth: Congress should require him to release his tax returns before acting on any bill.

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## Maribahan Moneda

**I**monedan familia megaiña besis na esta monhayam magsa antes de Bietnes pagamientu. Seriosu este na chinatsaga gi kinalamten megai na familia guine.

Na ti kuttura i para u sufisiente monedan familia umapase obligasion siha? Kau guinefin mansabiu i hegsu' I Deni' i para u asegura na sumen miserapble i familia siha gi señgsoñ? Guaha mohon chansata umadelanta monedan familia-ta?

Gaige este gi inestablesen dikiki' na bisnis familia. Debi tafan manatma man-mamatinas mas kopble para usu-ta. Ni unu para tafan chineguiye ya ni unu u fattu yan maletan ayudu. Debi hita ta batbaruye umatrebi i asuntu.

Entalu' i gualu' yan tasi 'sino kusinan i gima' seguruyu' na siña ta soda' fina' bisnis familia. Desde titiyas mai'es yan harina libianu ta fatinas mañge' na tininun guihan pat katne. Pega gi platu, balutan ya un' bende. Manadan offisina gi todum atmos banda 'nai siña un' bende finatinasmu.

**Sustansia-mu:** Gi kombetsasion-hu yan un' nietu, hafaise-nyu' i patgon gi finu' Eñglis haf' kutturaña yan tradision natibu. Kau presisu na u ketuñgu' tinatteña.

Ensegidas hu pega gi sagaña 'nai hu faisen haf' na liñguahé 'nai kumonbebetsa ham na dos. Ha atanyu' ya ha konfitma na ti liñguahiña. Hu faisen kau ume'eyag-gue' ni hila' nanaña. Ha konfitma na huñgan. Hu soyu' i patgon na u kontinua.

I sustansian natibu gaige gi tinatteña. Guiya ennau i kustumbrén natibu ni mapraktika kumu kuttura. 'Nai ma'ug ya chettun gi natibu humanau guatu gi mafanana'an tradision.

Giya hagu mismu, atan ginen manu hau mage yan kau ti magahet na sin tinattemu un' fattu gi manu 'nai gaige hau pa'gu? Likidu kuttura yan tradision natibu mina' difrensiáu yan otru siha tautau ni mangaige guine. Ginen usun liñguahita mina' siña ta fama yan prumaktika haf' iyota

kumu natibu.

**Retirau:** Guaha lai ni umapapase dibin Settlement Fund (\$700 million ginen hagas programan manretirau). Gi mismu tiempu ma-upus yan fatkeluye i 25 pot sientu na pagamientu para i tropa. Guaha lehitimu rason haf' na ma-upus este sin satbasion? Mauleg ta ekuñgog kau haf' ineppen mansabiu gi hegsu' I Deni'.

**Ansianu:** 'Nai ansianu sentimento-mu pues inekuppa hau manadan chathinassu. Ha inklusu este kuestion haf' para ta kanu', apas bañku pot guma' familia, yan otru siha buruka. Komprendiyun!

Chage tumunog papa' gi kañadan silensiú na patte giya hagu ya un' ekuñgog eku ni umupus hau tat kumu inañgog-hu gi disposision i Saina. Bastara ke tautauyu' ti hu hoñge este gi hinebenhu. Sige mona hu yute' añklan espirituat 'nai sumugu'yu' mangagau bendision. Desde ayu na tiempu malíñgu todú chathinassog-hu!

Mafattu kinahulu' yan minachum atdau ya tatnai chathinassu' haf' para sentada gi oran sena pat kau guaha mudahu para i Guma' Yuus 'sino dinaña' gupot familia. Kontentuyu' gi haf' mana'ihu diariu!

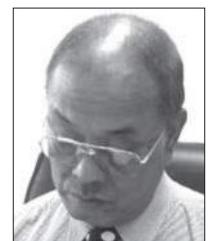
Eyag pumega ha'animu giya Guiya sa' siempre un' soda ginefsgamu gi kareramu. Muñga masa' pumega inañgohomu giya Guiya. Na ti magahet na solu Guiya i tai hinekog nina' siñaña yan yine'ase'ña? Komprendiyun yangin gai minasa' hau gi tutuhun sa' mantautau hit. Lau suhun mona adeñg-mu ya un' hagu' i primet pasu!

**Direchu:** I Attorney General as Elizabeth Barret Andersen para u defende direchun Chamorro giya Guahan dumispone tanu' niha. I puntu, segun as Andersen, pot proteksion kuttura yan direchun natibu taimanu mana'e i Hawaiian yan Indian giya America.

Modun linala' natibu i puntu kumu tautau tanu'. Ti kom-

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*

prendiyun para u fan magacha' linala' niha lau siha i dichu tautau iya Guahan. Hu sapopotta direchun niha i mañeluta dumespone ha' anen niha!

**Guinife:** Un' chagchag oga'an hu guife dos amiguhu (todo i dos defunto) na duru ham man-achatge gi kantun tasi. Ai na graciosun kombetsasion. Estake manmata-yu' 'nai hu repara na parehu i dos hagas madispone. Sin ditension hu tayuyute.

Hu komprende ayu na guinife. Yangin un' susede pues tayuyute lokue' sa' kase ha nesessita i bumisita hau orasion. Kustumbren relihion tanu'! Ya huñgan guaha 'nai mabisita hau pot sineyu' yine'ase'.

Bisitan man-mofona masusesede lokue'. Ti un' mana' tailaye solu un' disatentuye. Otdinariamente, mana'e hau miñgotmu para muñga na u sahñge siñientemu. Gi ti kilisyano na lugat, propiu na un' fangagau dispensu 'nos pot man-estotba hau lau lugat niha un' fatoigue. Ginagau petmissu humalum giya siha.

Lokue', hu huñgog tinayuyot animas gi halum Guma Yuus un' chatagmag 'nai tanoresyu'. Taftaf finatoghu manbaba potta. 'Nai hahuñgog tinayuyot grupu hu tuñgu' ensegidas na ti otdinariu na ñañgon. Hu dispensan maisayu' esta dispues 'nai hu baba i petta siha. Respetu!

## The new Jimmy Kimmel test: How to respond to mass shootings

**J**immy Kimmel has done it again.

The Jimmy Kimmel test became the standard in the health care debate, when the comedian emotionally asked whether all heart-damaged infants like his newborn son would have access to coverage.

Now, in a passionate monologue provoked by the Las Vegas massacre, the late-night comedian laid out a new Jimmy Kimmel test—for how to respond to mass shootings by Americans on American soil.

Why, he asks, do our leaders demand action after a jihadi terrorist attack but insist nothing can be done if the killer is a white American with automatic weapons? Both outrages require us to act.

"When someone with a beard attacks us, we tap phones, we invoke travel bans, we build walls, we take every possible precaution to make sure it doesn't happen again. But when an American buys a gun and kills other Americans, then there's nothing we can do."

"I disagree with that intensely. Because of course there's a lot of things we can do about it."

As Kimmel points out, this "isn't about gun control" per se or the Second Amendment. It's about seeking ways to curb the prevalence of mass shootings by Americans, often with weapons meant for military use.

Since June 12, 2016, when a gunman killed 49 at an Orlando nightclub—the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history until Sunday—there have been 521 mass shootings (four or more injured or killed), according to The New York Times. That's 521 mass shootings in 477 days.

Yet Congress has done nothing to expand background checks, or make it harder for people with mental illness to obtain guns—or to ban military-style semiautomatic rifles, like those used by Stephen Paddock in Las Vegas.

Moreover, you can easily buy unregulated "bump stocks" that enable a semiautomatic rifle to fire continuously like a banned fully automatic weapon. Paddock had at least two

bump stocks.

The White House says now is not the time for "political debate" over whether such weapons should be legal. If not now, when?

As Kimmel points out, the founding fathers never authorized AK-47 machine guns (or their like) in the Second Amendment. "They're weapons designed to kill large numbers of people in the shortest possible amount of time. And this guy, reportedly he had 10 of them in his room apparently legally. Why do our so-called leaders continue to allow this to happen? Or, better question, Why do we continue to allow it to happen?"

It is not impossible to curb the use of such weapons. In 1994, Congress passed a federal assault-weapons ban (with too many loopholes) that was endorsed by former President Ronald Reagan. But, pressed by the gun lobby, Congress let the ban expire after 2004.

Moreover, in February, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the military-style guns used in a disproportionate share of the mass killings in the United States are outside the aegis of the Second Amendment—because they are most suited for military use. Even Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, a favorite of gun-rights advocates, said in a 2008 ruling that the Second Amendment doesn't protect weapons such as semiautomatics that are "not typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes."

Kimmel put it more directly: "Common sense says no good will ever come from allowing a person to have weapons that can take down 527 Americans at a concert." Common sense says you don't let the mentally ill, or people on the no-fly list, buy guns.

As Kimmel noted, when you have a huge hotel fire—you change the safety codes so it doesn't happen again. "Why would we approach this differently?" he asks. "It's a public safety issue."

Yet no matter how heinous the mass murder, the Nation-

**By TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer



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al Rifle Association scares Congress into paralysis. Legislators pray for the victims, then push bills like one last month that would make it easier to buy ammo designated as "armor piercing."

However, change is not impossible. Australia, after a mass shooting by a lone gunman in 1996, banned automatic and semiautomatic weapons, and has never since suffered a mass shooting. True, America has far more people and guns, yet that is not the message we should take from the Aussies' brave move. Rather, they have proved that change can occur in a society that clings to its guns.

So when the White House says "don't politicize tragedy," it is time to reject such hypocrisy. If Paddock had been named Abu Muhammed, the president would have taken a totally different tone.

"Maybe I'm nuts," Kimmel says, "but I would like to think we could put politics aside and agree that no American citizen needs an M-16 or 10 of them." Nor do they need bump stocks.

The Jimmy Kimmel test should be used to confront the hypocrites in Congress and the White House: If you can take tough measures to combat terror attacks on American soil, why not do the same after mass shootings by Americans with automatic weapons?

That is the least we can do to honor the memory of the 58 Las Vegas dead.

# The Weather

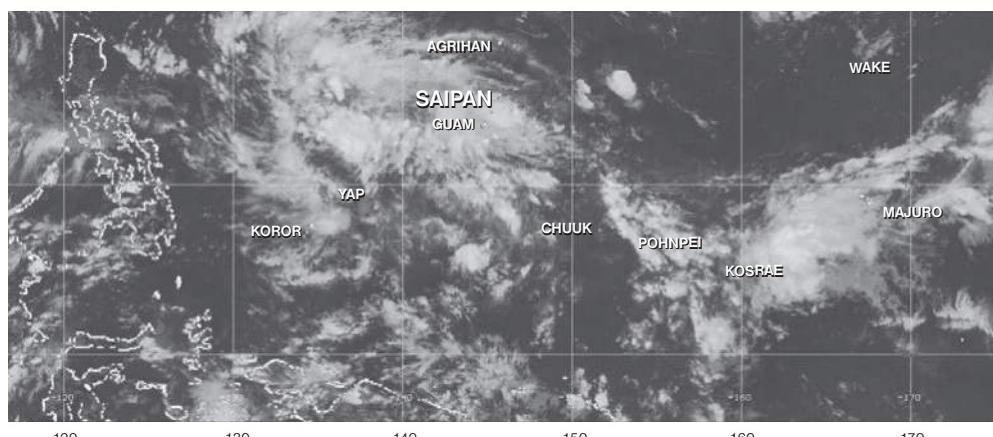
## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲ 89°	▼ 79°	▲ 89°	▼ 79°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°
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## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 7:05 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest satellite imagery shows a large area of clouds, showers, and thunderstorms west of the Marianas. While convection is moving westward around 15 mph, upper-level winds are shearing the cloud tops east-southeastward over the islands. Although guidance has indicated some showers this morning, it has not picked up on the extent of this activity. The models have also continued to imply that drier air will move in beginning later today but especially tonight into Wednesday. A large surface trough extends to the south of Marianas from near the Philippines. However, aloft, there is a fairly strong ridge. The surface convergence north of the trough has been enough to keep the shower activity going, and have it expand. The current forecast has been changed to indicate scattered showers this morning, and then a change to more isolated showers and thunderstorms this afternoon, with thunder chances perhaps even ending this evening as the drier air moves in at the mid-levels for the next few days. Hopefully, this is not an optimistic forecast.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)*

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	63° / 39°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°	
London	Showers	63° / 50°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	75° / 58°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°	
Miami	Showers	85° / 78°	
New York	Showers	72° / 61°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	79° / 66°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°	
Busan	Rain	66° / 55°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	88° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	65° / 48°	
Seoul	Showers	59° / 46°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°	
Washington, DC	Showers	73° / 66°	



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:  
 ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone  
 ■ \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone  
 ■ Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:39 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.21
12:39 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82
6:17 PM	LOW TIDE	1.11
11:07 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.76

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	5:59 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:12 am	10:57 pm
Thursday	-	12:11 pm	11:56 pm
Friday	-	1:08 am	10:00 pm
Saturday	12:55 am	2:00 pm	-
Sunday	1:53 am	2:50 pm	-

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>				<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>			
DL297 4:15pm 7:05pm Daily				DL298 10:20am 3:00pm Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
TW308 1:35am 5:20am 2, 3, 4				TW3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				TW307 7:05pm 12:35am+1 1, 2, 3			
TW308 2:3							

# Business

## White House to order health care alternatives

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The White House is finalizing an executive order that would expand health plans offered by associations to allow individuals to pool together and buy insurance outside their states, a unilateral move that follows failed efforts by Congress to overhaul the health care system.

President Donald Trump has long asserted that selling insurance across state lines would trigger competition that brings down premiums for people buying their own policies. Experts say that's not guaranteed, partly because health insurance reflects local medical costs, which vary widely around the country.

Moreover, White House actions may come too late to

have much impact on premiums for 2018.

Trump was expected to sign the executive order this week, likely on Thursday, a senior administration official said Sunday.

Under the president's executive action, membership groups could sponsor insurance plans that cost less because—for example—they wouldn't have to offer the full menu of benefits required under the Affordable Care Act, also called "Obamacare." It's unclear how the White House plans to overcome opposition from state insurance regulators, who see that as an end-run to avoid standards.

"There are likely to be legal challenges that could slow this effort down," said Larry Lev-

itt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

Similar alternatives have been promoted by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a Republican holdout during the health care debate. Senate leaders didn't bring the latest GOP health care bill to a vote because they lacked the votes to pass it.

Association plans "kind of went away with the ACA, and now the idea seems to be to re-create them," said Jeff Smedsrud, a health insurance marketing entrepreneur. "It's not clear what they would really look like."

Smedsrud said a different option also under consideration by the White House, to loosen restrictions on "short term" insurance plans, could be a safety valve for some consumers.

Those plans generally have limited benefits and remain in force for less than a year. During the Obama administration, the availability of short-term coverage was restricted. One of Smedsrud's companies sells short-term plans.

Others warned that over time the White House order could undermine state insurance markets created under Obama's law, by siphoning off healthy people to plans with lower premiums and skinnier benefits.

The order was being drafted as Trump expressed his willingness to work with Democrats on health care after Republicans were unable to approve legislation that would have repealed and replaced "Obamacare."

## Nobel goes to Richard Thaler who made economics human again

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—People make poor economic choices. They don't save enough for retirement. They refuse to cut their losses on plummeting investments because they won't own up to mistakes. They buy houses and stocks when prices are high, thinking that what's going up today will keep going up tomorrow.

Richard Thaler of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business on Monday won the Nobel economics prize for documenting the way people's behavior doesn't conform to economic models that portray them as perfectly rational. As one of the founders of behavioral economics, he has helped change the way economists look at the world.

"Thrilling news," said Thaler's collaborator, Cass Sunstein of Harvard Law School. "He changed economics, and he changed the world."

Far from being the rational decision-makers described



University of Chicago professor Richard Thaler left, shakes hands with University of Chicago provost Dan Diermeir right, while University of Chicago president Robert J. Zimmer, center, looks on during a news conference announcing Thaler as the winner of the Nobel economics prize Monday, Oct. 9, 2017, in Chicago.

AP

in economic theory, Thaler found, people often make decisions that don't serve their best interests.

Illogical human behavior has economic consequences: Baby Boomers haven't saved enough for old age. Americans kept buying houses even

as prices soared in the mid-2000s, creating a bubble that burst and triggered the biggest economic downturn since the 1930s. To limit the damage, behavioral economists say, economic policy needs to take human foibles into account.

"I try to teach people to

make fewer mistakes," Thaler told the Associated Press. "But in designing economic policies, we need to take full account of the fact that people are busy, they're absent-minded, they're lazy and that we should try to make things as easy for them as possible."

## Environmental groups denounce Trump override of climate plan

**HAZARD, Ky.** (AP)—A coalition of left-leaning states and environmental groups are vowing to fight the Trump administration's move to kill an Obama-era effort to limit carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Speaking Monday in the coal-mining state of Kentucky, Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Scott Pruitt said he would be issuing a new set of rules overriding the Clean Power Plan, the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's drive to curb global climate change.

"The war on coal is over," Pruitt declared, adding that no federal agency should ever use its authority to "declare war on any sector of our economy."

It was not immediately clear if Pruitt would seek to issue a new rule without congressional approval, which Republicans had criticized the Obama administration for doing. Pruitt's rule wouldn't become final for months, and is then highly likely to face a raft of legal challenges.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman was among

those who said they will sue.

"The Trump Administration's persistent and indefensible denial of climate change—and their continued assault on actions essential to stemming its increasing devastation—is reprehensible, and I will use every available legal tool to fight their dangerous agenda," said Schneiderman, a Democrat.

### YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE  
Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

## Employee's minor infraction doesn't need to lead to fight

**Q** Recently called in sick when he was actually taking a trip to the beach. Although "Greg" is a bright guy with lots of potential, I have previously had some concerns about his work ethic. However, this was just a general impression with no specific evidence.

Even though I feel certain that Greg lied, I'm not sure how to handle it. If I make an accusation without any proof, that may offend him and damage our relationship. On the other hand, Greg shouldn't be allowed to get away with lying, and I don't want to be a spineless manager. What should I do?

**A** Discussing performance problems can be awkward when the information is second-hand. Typically, employees will deny wrongdoing and demand to know who made the allegations. From there, the discussion can easily deteriorate into a pointless argument about infractions, which cannot be conclusively proven.

To avoid wandering into this pit of conversational quicksand, try using the "if-then" approach. Instead of directly accusing Greg of misconduct, describe what you have been told, then explain the likely consequence if such a transgression were to occur. This method is especially useful with a relatively minor first offense.

For example: "Greg, I've heard that when you called in sick last week, you were actually on your way to the beach. I don't know if that's true, and I'm not trying to find out. However, I want to emphasize that lying is a serious breach of trust which would warrant a disciplinary warning. We don't need to discuss it further, but I do want to be clear about the consequences if this were to happen in the future."

If Greg proclaims his innocence, say there's no need to debate the issue. If he asks who provided the information, tell him that's confidential. Your goal is to simply deliver the message, be sure Greg understands, then end the meeting. Hopefully, this bright young man will take your warning seriously, but for now, his absences should be closely scrutinized.

**Q** A pregnant employee keeps complaining about our maternity leave and insurance benefits. As the human resources manager, how should I respond to her ongoing criticism of our policies? Is it our fault she didn't research this before getting pregnant? Are we responsible for fixing her financial problems? I'm sick and tired of her constant whining, so how can I stop it?

**A** If you have adequately explained the benefits, then you have no further obligation to tolerate endless complaints. However, you really must calm down, because right now you sound like an exasperated, ranting co-worker instead of a human resources professional. In that frame of mind, you represent a legal time bomb.

Being in HR, you are undoubtedly aware of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, which covers employers with fifteen or more employees. Assuming your business qualifies, the provisions of this act must guide all interactions with your disgruntled employee. Therefore, you should immediately seek guidance from the attorney who advises your company on labor matters, no pun intended.



### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
22,761.07	2,544.73	6,579.73
-12.60	-4.60	-10.45
[-0.06%]	[-0.81%]	[-0.16%]

### EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	1.2838	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8047	Russian Ruble	58.1033	
	British Pound	0.7589	Indian Rupee	64.6571	Singapore Dollar	1.3600	
	Canadian Dollar	1.2508	Japanese Yen	112.5470	South Korean Won	1,110.10	
	Chinese Yuan	6.4689	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1771	Swiss Franc	0.9778	
	Euro	0.8492	New Zealand Dollar	1.4148	Taiwan Dollar	29.7559	
				Philippine Peso	50.4035	Thailand Baht	33.2585

# Nation

## At least 10 dead as fires rage in California wine country



Jim Stites watches part of his neighborhood burn in Fountaingrove, Calif., Monday Oct. 9, 2017. AP

By JEFF CHIU and ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SANTA ROSA, Calif.** (AP)—Wildfires whipped by powerful winds swept through California wine country Monday, killing at least 10 people, destroying 1,500 homes and businesses and sending thousands fleeing as flames raged unchecked through high-end resorts, grocery stores and tree-lined neighborhoods.

The fires broke out nearly simultaneously and then exploded overnight, sending residents fleeing as embers rained down and flames raged around them. Two hospitals in Santa Rosa, the largest city in the region with 175,000 people, were forced to evacuate patients.

Later in the day, fires from ruptured gas lines dotted the smoky landscapes of blackened Santa Rosa hillsides. Fire trucks raced by smoldering roadside landscaping in search of higher priorities.

The flames were fickle in some corners of the city. One hillside home remained unscathed while a dozen surrounding it were destroyed.

One of the homes that was reduced to ash had a Mercedes Benz in the garage. Two cars parked across the street were untouched.

The flames were unforgiving throughout the city, torching block after block with little to salvage.

Hundreds of homes in the Fountain Grove area were leveled by flames so hot they melted the glass off of cars

and turned aluminum wheels into liquid. One neighborhood of older homes was scorched, leaving only brick chimneys and downed power lines.

Residents who gathered at emergency shelters and grocery stores said they were shocked by the speed and ferocity of the flames. They recalled all the possessions they had left behind and were lost.

"All that good stuff, I'm never going to see it again," said Jeff Okrepkie, who fled his neighborhood in Santa Rosa

knowing it was probably the last time he would see his home of the past five years standing.

His worst fears were confirmed Monday, when a friend sent him a photo of what was left: a smoldering heap of burnt metal and debris.

In the rush to leave, Okrepkie and his wife were able to gather important documents, photos and mementos, like letters from his wife's late father. Still, Okrepkie was tortured by the things he left behind, including a framed photo of

his grandfather that his grandmother had carried with her for a decade after he died.

Some of the largest of the 14 blazes burning over a 200-mile region were in Napa and Sonoma counties, home to dozens of wineries that attract tourists from around the world. They sent smoke as far south as San Francisco, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) away. The causes of the fires were unknown.

The fires throughout the region were among the deadliest in California history, and fire

officials expected the number of fatalities to increase.

Winds have posed a challenge to firefighters in the state this year despite a relatively wet winter that followed years of drought. The fires that broke out Sunday burned "at explosive rates" because of 50 mph winds, said Ken Pimlott, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

October has generally been the most destructive time of year for California wildfires. What was unusual Sunday,

however, was to have so many fires take off at the same time.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency in Napa, Sonoma, Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Nevada and Yuba counties. Authorities imposed a sunset-to-sunrise curfew in Santa Rosa, saying they were on the lookout for looters.

The ferocity of the flames forced authorities to focus primarily on getting people out safely, even if it meant abandoning structures to the fire.

Elsewhere in the state, a fire churning through canyons in hilly neighborhoods of Orange County burned at least half a dozen homes and forced residents of about 1,000 homes to evacuate. Brown also declared a state of emergency for Orange County.

The inferno in Northern California blackened miles along Highway 12, one of the main gateways into wine country.

Wooden fence posts and guard rails burned fiercely. Thick smoke roiled from the JR Cohn winery.

The fires also damaged the Silverado Resort in Napa and a Hilton hotel in Santa Rosa.

Kim Hoe, a 33-year-old tech worker from Penang, Malaysia, was staying at the Hilton Sonoma Wine Country, which was gutted by flames. He said the power went out around 1 a.m., and he and his colleagues started packing up when someone knocked on the door and told them to run.

"We just had to run and run. It was full of smoke. We could barely breathe," Hoe said.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 2 more dead from Florida nursing home that lost AC in Irma

MIAMI (AP)—Two women who lived at a Florida nursing home that lost air conditioning during Hurricane Irma have died, bringing to 14 the number of fatalities linked to the home. Cecilia Franco, 90, and Francesca Andrade, 95, died from ailments suffered when the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills lost power Sept. 10 during the hurricane's passage, Hollywood police spokeswoman Miranda Grossman told The Associated Press on Monday. On Sept. 13, eight residents died and other residents were evacuated from the sweltering facility after the electric transformer that powered the facility's air conditioning was damaged during the storm. Grossman didn't say exactly when the women died, but said police are treating the deaths as part of the criminal investigation.

#### Trump's immigration demands threaten DACA deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's long list of immigration demands has landed with a thud among lawmakers hopeful for a deal to protect hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation. The list of demands released late Sunday includes funding for a southern border wall and a crackdown on so-called sanctuary cities—items that are cheered by the president's most loyal supporters, but are non-starters among Democrats and could divide Republicans, who will have to come together on any deal. The demands have left pro-immigration activists alarmed. And some are scratching their heads, given that the president appeared to sign off on a more palatable deal with Democrats just weeks ago.

#### Sheriff: Shooter shot guard before he fired on concert-goers

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Law enforcement authorities on Monday made a significant change to the timeline of the Las Vegas mass shooting, saying the gunman shot a hotel security guard before he opened fire on concertgoers. Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo had previously said the guard was shot after gunman Stephen Paddock fired at the country music festival and that the guard's arrival in the hallway of the Mandalay Bay hotel may have caused Paddock to stop firing. It was not immediately clear why the timeline of the shooting changed a week later and what the impact could be on the investigation. On Monday, Lombardo said security guard Jesus Campos was in a hallway of the Mandalay Bay hotel responding to a report of an open door when he heard

drilling from Stephen Craig Paddock's room.

#### Texas Tech police officer killed, suspect in custody

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—Police apprehended a 19-year-old student accused of fatally shooting a Texas Tech University police officer at the campus police station Monday night. University officials issued an alert saying the suspect was taken into custody and that the campus lockdown order had been lifted. In an earlier statement, the university identified the suspect as Hollis Daniels. According to a university statement, campus police made a student welfare check Monday evening and—upon entering the room—found evidence of drugs and drug paraphernalia. Officers then brought the suspect to the police station for standard debriefing.

# Asia

## Chemist says Kim had 1.4 times lethal dosage of VX on face

**SHAH ALAM, Malaysia** (AP)—The estranged half brother of North Korea's leader had about 1.4 times the lethal dosage of VX nerve agent on his face after he was attacked at a Malaysian airport, a government chemist testified Tuesday.

Pure VX was on Kim Jong Nam's body, in his eye and in his blood plasma, government chemist Raja Subramaniam said at the murder trial of two women accused of smearing the chemical weapon on Kim in the brazen assassination in February.

VX was also detected on the clothes both women wore the day of the attack. The trial on Monday had temporarily moved to a high-security laboratory for the judge, attorneys and the defendants to examine the clothing before it was presented as evidence.

Resuming his testimony Tuesday, Raja described the lethal potential of VX. He said animal studies showed the lethal dosage is 0.142 milligrams per kilogram of body weight, and that 50 percent of the tested population will die when exposed to this dosage on their skin.

Raja estimated the concentrate on Kim's facial skin was 0.2 milligram per kilogram of body weight.

Asked if the VX concentrate found on Kim's face was enough to kill him, Raja said: "I can't give a direct answer on this. Based on concentrate estimate, it is about 1.4 times the lethal dosage."

He said the estimated VX concentrate on Kim's eye was only 0.03 milligrams per kilogram of his body weight, but

that correlated to VX penetrating faster through the eye than through the skin.

VX was also on the collar and sleeves of his blazer, probably because Kim wiped his face on his blazer after the attack, Raja said.

After prosecutors concluded their questioning, defense attorneys were cross-examining the chemist. His finding of VX on the women's clothing was the first evidence linking

VX to the two suspects. Their attorneys have said the women were duped by suspected North Korean agents into believing they were playing a harmless prank for a hidden camera TV show. Indonesian Siti Aisyah and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam pleaded not guilty at the start of the trial last week to charges of murder that carry a mandatory death sentence if they are convicted.

Prosecutors have also said

they will present airport security videos this week that show the two women carrying out the attack and indicate they knew they were handling poison.

VX is banned by an international treaty as a weapon of mass destruction but is believed to be part of North Korea's chemical weapons arsenal.

Kim was the eldest son in the current generation of North Korea's dynastic rulers but

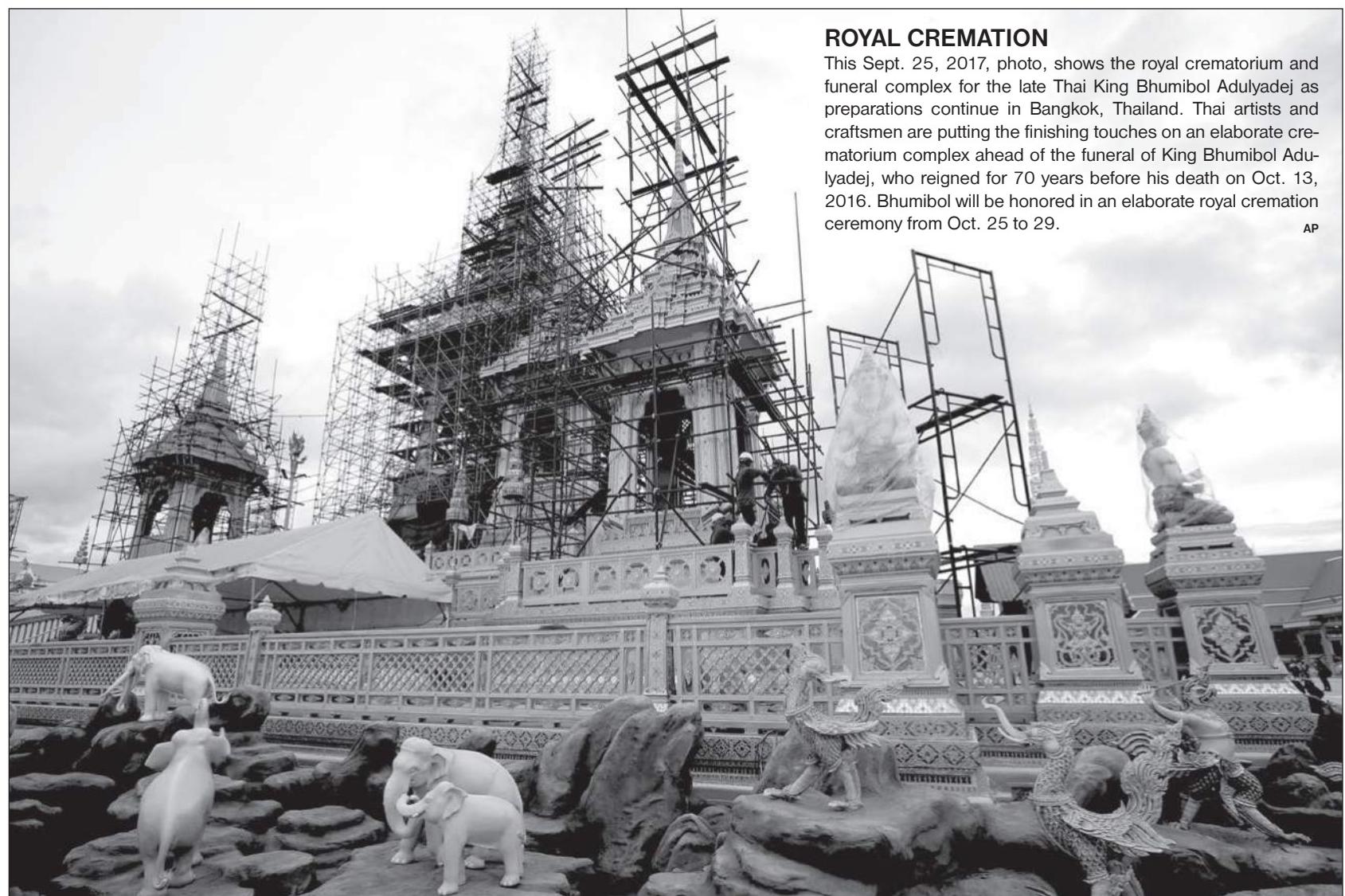
lived in virtual exile as an apparent family outcast. North Korea experts say he may have been killed because he was perceived as a threat to the nation's current leader, his younger sibling, Kim Jong Un.

An airport security video reviewed by The Associated Press on Monday shows what may be Kim's final recorded moments of life after he fell perilously ill at the Kuala Lumpur airport on Feb. 13.

The video shows Kim apparently unconscious on a gurney and being given oxygen by medical attendants waiting for an elevator to take him to an ambulance.

The scene in the video appears almost casual, in contrast to the dramatic news of his death once it was made public.

The video was first broadcast late Sunday by Japan's Fuji TV.



### ROYAL CREMATION

This Sept. 25, 2017, photo, shows the royal crematorium and funeral complex for the late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej as preparations continue in Bangkok, Thailand. Thai artists and craftsmen are putting the finishing touches on an elaborate crematorium complex ahead of the funeral of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reigned for 70 years before his death on Oct. 13, 2016. Bhumibol will be honored in an elaborate royal cremation ceremony from Oct. 25 to 29.

AP

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### American cancels flight after loading equipment catches fire

**HONG KONG** (AP)—An American Airlines flight from Hong Kong to Los Angeles was canceled Monday after a piece of loading equipment caught fire while it was preparing to put cargo in the hold of the plane, the airline said. One person was hurt. The container that was on the loading equipment also caught fire in the process, said Martha Thomas, a spokeswoman for the airline. The cargo it contained was "non-hazardous," Thomas said, without providing details. She added that the airline was looking into the cause of the mechanical issue that triggered the fire. Boarding had not yet started and no passengers or crew on Flight 192 were injured, she said.

The operator of the equipment is being treated for "non-life-threatening" injuries, Thomas said. The flight was scheduled to depart Hong Kong at 6:10 p.m. local time and arrive at Los Angeles at 4:30 p.m. local time.

#### Australian government: Constitution can't be taken literally

**CANBERRA, Australia** (AP)—A government lawyer told Australia's High Court on Tuesday that it could not take a constitutional ban on dual citizens being elected to Parliament literally when deciding the fates of seven lawmakers. Solicitor-General Stephen Donaghue told the High Court judges that five of the lawmakers, including three government ministers, should not be disqualified from Par-

liament for breaching the constitution because they did not voluntarily acquire or retain citizenship of another country. The hearing began on Tuesday and is expected to take three days. Under Section 44 (i) of the 116-year-old constitution, "a subject or citizen of a foreign power" is not eligible to be elected to Parliament.

#### Taiwan leader: Protect regional stability amid China tension

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—Taiwan's independence-leaning government will defend the self-governing island's freedoms and democratic system amid heightened tensions with rival China, President Tsai Ing-wen said Tuesday. In an annual National Day address, Tsai also repeated her positions that Taiwan would continue to

extend "goodwill" to China, and would neither buckle under Beijing's pressure nor go down an adversarial path. China cut off contact with Tsai's government shortly after her inauguration last year and has refused to renew contact until she endorses Beijing's view that Taiwan is a part of Chinese territory. Beijing threatens to use force to seize control of the island and has steadily increased diplomatic and economic pressure on Taipei over the last year and a half.

#### UN aviation regulator removes Thailand from red-flag nations

**BANGKOK** (AP)—The United Nations' aviation regulator has removed Thailand from its list of countries red-flagged for safety concerns, more than two years after it

was first put on the list. In June 2014, the U.N.'s International Civil Aviation Organization issued a red flag to Thailand and added it to a list of 12 other nations found deficient in managing their airlines. An ICAO spokesman said at the time that its main concern was Thailand's ability to conduct air operator certifications. Thailand had feared that a downgrade would hurt its national airline and its lucrative tourism industry. ICAO lifted the red flag issued to Thailand after it was discussed at a Friday meeting, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand said in a Monday statement on its website.

#### Japan election campaign begins, PM Abe pledges stability

**TOKYO** (AP)—Hundreds of candidates have taken to

the streets as the official 12-day campaigning for Japan's Oct. 22 lower house election began, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling party facing challenges from regrouped opposition forces. Up for grabs are 465 seats in the more powerful of Japan's two-chamber parliament. Abe on Tuesday pledged his party's stable leadership as he sought voters' support for his measures on North Korea's missile threat and Japan's aging. Experts say he timed his call for an election when opposition parties were unprepared to solidify his grip within the party and extend his rule. Abe's LDP and its coalition partner, Komei, are expected to win the majority, though a surging new group led by Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike is likely to take some seats away.

# World

## Spain on edge before possible Catalan secession declaration

**BARCELONA, Spain** (AP)—The focus of the deepening clash between Catalan separatists and Spanish authorities is shifting to the regional parliament for a key session likely to include a historic declaration of independence that Spain has pledged to crush.

Catalan president Carles Puigdemont hasn't revealed the precise message he will deliver Tuesday evening with separatist politicians expecting some sort of declaration based on the results of the disputed Oct. 1 referendum on independence.

At stake is the territorial integrity of Spain, threatened by a growing separatist movement that is sorely testing the strength of its constitution and the skill of its national and regional leaders.

Some expect a strictly symbolic declaration, while others believe a risky full-scale break with Spain will be attempted, even as Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy vows he will use all lawful means to keep Spain intact.

The Spanish leader has said he is willing to use a constitutional clause that allows Madrid to take over direct control of regions if they violate Spain's constitution—a move that could apply in this case because Spain's constitutional court had suspended the referendum.

Its results are therefore considered invalid under Spanish law.

"Spain will not be divided and the national unity will be preserved. We will do everything that legislation allows us to ensure this," Rajoy told German newspaper Die Welt. "We will prevent this independence from taking place."

Puigdemont's embrace of independence may be slowed by the decision of several major banks and businesses to move their headquarters out of Catalonia because they want to remain under the European Union's regulatory umbrella, and also by the bloc's back-

ing of Spain despite a police crackdown on people trying to vote in the referendum.

The Spanish government's staunch opposition, the lukewarm response of the international community to the prospect of a breakaway state

in Europe and the concerns of business leaders all suggest an independence move would extract a heavy price from Catalonia's separatist leaders.

Still, separatist politicians say there will be a declaration of independence for the

northeastern region of 7.5 million people during the Tuesday session, although some ruling coalition lawmakers say the move could be simply "symbolic."

The Oct. 1 referendum vote has been followed by

mass protests of Catalans angered by heavy-handed police tactics.

But there also have been well-organized, large-scale rallies in both Catalonia and Madrid by people committed to keeping Spain intact.

Police say roughly 350,000 took part in the anti-independence protests Sunday in Barcelona. The demonstrators chanted "Don't be fooled, Catalonia is Spain" and called for Puigdemont to go to prison for holding the banned referendum. Some held up signs thanking Spain's National Police and Guardia Civil for their support.

Despite the opposition, some politicians and activists

say they won't accept anything less than a full declaration of independence at Tuesday's session.

"Credibility and dignity suggest making the declaration of independence tomorrow (Tuesday)," Jordi Sanchez, the head of the civil group National Catalonia Assembly, said Monday.

A lawmaker with the Catalan CUP party told The Associated Press that the far-left separatists won't accept compromise on the issue.

"It's very clear to me that those who I represent won't accept any other scenario," Benet Salellas said during an interview at the regional parliament.



People carry a Spanish flag during a march in downtown Barcelona, Spain, to protest the Catalan government's push for secession from the rest of Spain, Sunday Oct. 8, 2017. AP

## Engineers: lives lost in Mexico quake could have been saved

**MEXICO CITY** (AP)—Warm lighting would enhance the wood floors' natural glow, the developer promised, so when all the custom lightbulbs burnt out, Anahi Abadia and her husband grudgingly drove to Home Depot to replenish supplies for their chic new flat in southern Mexico City.

They had just reached the register when the earthquake hit, shaking the store so fierce-

ly the structure screeched. Minutes later, a text came in from their neighbor: The elegant apartment they had purchased only six months earlier had collapsed, rendering their new home a pile of crushed concrete.

They were among the fortunate: Two women working in their building and dozens more perished on Sept. 19 in structure failures that several prominent engineers now say

could have been prevented. Nearly two-thirds of the 44 buildings that fell in Mexico City were designed with a construction method called flat slab—in which floors are supported only by concrete columns—now forbidden in parts of the United States, Chile and New Zealand according to data compiled by a team of structural engineers at Stanford University and obtained by The Associated Press.

Mexico City officials were widely lauded for tightening their building codes after thousands died in the 1985 earthquake. But they left out one crucial reform: a prohibition on the building technique that caused 61 percent of the building collapses in last month's magnitude 7.1 quake, which killed 369 people and blanketed tree-lined avenues in rubble.

**ANKARA, Turkey** (AP)—Turkey's justice minister on Monday said he hoped the United States would review its decision to suspend most visa services for Turkish citizens following the arrest of a U.S. consulate employee in Istanbul that has deepened tensions between the two NATO allies.

Meanwhile, Turkish authorities announced that a second employee of the U.S. consulate in Istanbul had been "invited" to the Istanbul chief prosecutor's office to testify.

Authorities did not explain why. Reports say the employee is a Turkish citizen, and the prosecutor's office said his wife and child had also been detained for questioning.

The U.S. on Sunday suspended the issuing of visas for Turkish citizens hoping to visit or study in the United States after Turkey arrested U.S. consulate employee Metin Topuz last week on allegations of espionage.

Turkey immediately halted visa services in the U.S. in a tit-for-tat response.

## 2 UN peacekeepers killed, 18 hurt in eastern Congo attacks

**KINSHASA, Congo** (AP)—Two U.N. peacekeepers from Tanzania were killed and 18 more wounded in a series of attacks Monday in eastern Congo by suspected Ugandan rebels of the ADF group, the United Nations said.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned the attacks and urged Congolese authorities "to swiftly investigate these incidents and bring the perpetrators to justice," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

The U.N. chief noted that attacks targeting peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law, the spokesman said.

Dujarric said earlier that the injured have been evacuated to Goma.

"The mission deployed attack helicopters as well as the force intervention brigade in support of operations as well as to reinforce presence," he said, adding that mission forces are also deployed to restore order

Ten people were killed in fighting in the region Saturday night, said local administrator Amisi Kalonda. At least 22 people are missing, said David Muhaze, the president of a civil society organization. The total of missing and dead could not be confirmed by officials.

Dujarric said Guterres "once again calls on all armed groups in the country to lay down their weapons."

## Turkey wants US to review decision to halt visa services

**ANKARA, Turkey** (AP)—Turkey's justice minister on Monday said he hoped the United States would review its decision to suspend most visa services for Turkish citizens following the arrest of a U.S. consulate employee in Istanbul that has deepened tensions between the two NATO allies.

Meanwhile, Turkish authorities announced that a second employee of the U.S. consulate in Istanbul had been "invited" to the Istanbul chief prosecutor's office to testify.

## Focus

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and  
RYAN NAKASHIMA  
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITERS

Nearly a year after Facebook and Google launched offensives against fake news, they're still inadvertently promoting it—often at the worst possible times.

Online services designed to engross users aren't so easily retooled to promote greater accuracy, it turns out. Especially with online trolls, pranksters and more malicious types scheming to evade new controls as they're rolled out.

### FEAR AND FALSITY IN LAS VEGAS

In the immediate aftermath of the Las Vegas shooting, Facebook's "Crisis Response" page for the attack featured a false article misidentifying the gunman and claiming he was a "far left loon." Google promoted a similarly erroneous item from the anonymous prankster site 4chan in its "Top Stories" results.

A day after the attack, a YouTube search on "Las Vegas shooting" yielded a conspiracy-theory video that claimed multiple shooters were involved in the attack as the fifth result. YouTube is owned by Google.

None of these stories were true. Police identified the sole shooter as Stephen Paddock, a Nevada man whose motive remains a mystery. The Oct. 1 attack on a music festival left 58 dead and hundreds wounded.

The companies quickly purged offending links and tweaked their algorithms to fa-

# Fake news is still here, despite efforts by Google, Facebook

vor more authoritative sources. But their work is clearly incomplete—a different Las Vegas conspiracy video was the eighth result displayed by YouTube in a search Monday.

### ENGAGEMENT FIRST

Why do these highly automated services keep failing to separate truth from fiction? One big factor: most online services systems tend to emphasize posts that engage an audience—exactly what a lot of fake news is specifically designed to do.

Facebook and Google get caught off guard "because their algorithms just look for signs of popularity and recency at first," without first checking to ensure relevance, says David Carroll, a professor of media design at the Parsons School of Design in New York.

That problem is much bigger in the wake of disaster, when facts are still unclear and demand for information runs high.

Malicious actors have learned to take advantage of this, says Mandy Jenkins, head

of news at social media and news research agency Storyful. "They know how the sites work, they know how algorithms work, they know how the media works," she says.

Participants on 4chan's "Politically Incorrect" channel regularly chat about "how to deploy fake news strategies" around major stories, says Dan Leibson, vice president of search at the digital marketing consultancy Local SEO Guide.

One such chat just hours after the Las Vegas urged readers to "push the fact this terrorist was a commie" on social media. "There were people discussing how to create engagement all night," Leibson says.

### EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Thanks to political polarization, the very notion of what constitutes a "credible" source of news is now a point of contention.

Mainstream journalists routinely make judgments about the credibility of various publications based on their history of accuracy. That's a much more complicated issue for mass-market services like Facebook and Google, given the popularity of many inaccurate sources among political partisans.

The pro-Trump Gateway Pundit site, for example, published the false Las Vegas story promoted by Facebook. But it has also been invited to White House press briefings and counts more than 620,000 fans on its Facebook page.

Facebook said last week it is "working to fix the issue" that led it to promote false reports about the Las Vegas shooting, although it didn't say what it had in mind.

The company has already taken a number of steps since December; it now features fact-checks by outside orga-

nizations, puts warning labels on disputed stories and has de-emphasized false stories in people's news feeds.

### GETTING ALGORITHMS RIGHT

Breaking news is also inherently challenging for automated filter systems. Google says the 4chan post that misidentified the Las Vegas shooter should not have appeared in its "Top Stories" feature, and was replaced by its algorithm after a few hours.

Outside experts say Google was flummoxed by two different issues. First, its "Top Stories" is designed to return results from the broader web alongside items from news outlets. Second, signals that help Google's system evaluate the credibility of a web page—for instance, links from known authoritative sources—are not available in breaking news situations, says independent

search optimization consultant Matthew Brown.

"If you have enough citations or references to something, algorithmically that's going to look very important to Google," Brown said. "The problem is an easy one to define but a tough one to resolve."

### MORE PEOPLE, FEWER ROBOTS

Federal law currently exempts Facebook, Google and similar companies from liability for material published by their users. But circumstances are forcing the tech companies to accept more responsibility for the information they spread.

Facebook said last week that it would hire an extra 1,000 people to help vet ads after it found a Russian agency bought ads meant to influence last year's election. It's also subjecting potentially sensitive ads, including political messages, to "human review."

In July, Google revamped guidelines for human workers who help rate search results in order to limit misleading and offensive material. Earlier this year, Google also allowed users to flag so-called "featured snippets" and "autocomplete" suggestions if they found the content harmful.

The Google-sponsored Trust Project at Santa Clara University is also working to create tags that could serve as markers of credibility for individual authors. These would include items such as their location and journalism awards, information that could be fed into future algorithms, according to project director Sally Lehrman.



**AP**  
Flowers, candles and other items surround the famous Las Vegas sign at a makeshift memorial for victims of a mass shooting Monday, Oct. 9, 2017, in Las Vegas.

# Good Housekeeping

By ERICA LAMBERG  
GOBANKINGRATES.COM

Unexpected repairs can cause financial stress for homeowners. When crises occur, homeowners can find themselves in a financial pinch, needing to rely on professionals like a general contractor to get the issue fixed quickly. Emergency repairs typically come with hefty price tags, but with proper planning, you can avoid draining your bank account.

## EXPERIENCING UNEXPECTED ROOF REPAIRS

One of the most important things to maintain is a solid roof over your head, so when that starts to deteriorate, it can quickly descend into a nightmare. Although many roofs are guaranteed

## Common (and costly) home repairs

for around 30 years, it's better to take preventive action than wait until a crisis occurs to start thinking about how your house can weather the next storm.

A new roof for an average-sized house — using medium-priced asphalt shingles — can cost at least \$5,000 in most parts of the country, assuming that the sheathing is still sound, said Timothy G. Wiedman, a retired professor of management from Doane University in Nebraska. Wiedman — who has bought, maintained, upgraded and sold several homes — said homeowners would be wise to start putting \$600 to \$700 per year into a roof replacement fund.

### HANDLING AN UNPLANNED HVAC BREAKDOWN

When it comes to maintaining your heating system, don't find yourself left out in the cold. "This equipment will last 12 to 15 years before it should be replaced," said Gene Amick, with Climate Control Heating near Kansas City, Mo. Depending on size and efficiency, he said replacement costs range from \$5,000 to \$14,000.

Your best bet would be to find a local heating and cooling contractor who offers a maintenance program. "This will prolong the life of your existing equipment," he added. "The proactive approach

of being ready for the eventual changing of your equipment will save you money."

### MANAGING OLD WINDOW EMERGENCIES

Old, drafty windows are a significant source of heat loss in a home. "You're literally throwing money right out the window," cautioned Phil Eby, owner of Eby Exteriors, Inc. in Lancaster, Pa. "Replacement windows are a home improvement necessity you should be saving for."

In addition, he pointed out energy-efficient windows can be tax deductible, and to save more money, homeowners should look for window manu-

facturer rebates. In his area, replacement windows can range anywhere from \$4,500 to nearly \$9,000. "It really depends on how many windows need replacing and sizes," he said.

### MENDING CRUMBLING DRIVEWAYS

A compromised driveway can be dangerous. Not only can someone fall, but vehicles can be damaged. A quick fix can cost only a few hundred dollars, but depending on the length, some repairs can easily cost over \$1,000, according to Teris Pantazes, CEO of home improvement platform EFynch.

For a complete repaving project, a good place to start is to ask a trusted neighbor for

a recommendation. A smooth driveway not only has aesthetic appeal but could also increase your home's curb appeal and value should you choose to sell.

### UNDERSTANDING CHIMNEY MAINTENANCE

Blocked chimneys are a serious fire hazard, so proper cleaning is a must. "With each chimney sweep, the professional should also inspect the chimney for cracks, nests or damage," said Pantazes. "Gas should be every two years; wood every year."

Typical costs are about \$100 per sweep, and a maintenance contract with a reputable chimney sweep company might reduce some of these costs. DIY-ers beware: Leave this job to a professional.

By MORGAN QUINN  
GOBANKINGRATES.COM

Looking for a new apartment can be a frustrating experience—and can even feel hopeless, sometimes. From going to look at a place that's nothing like the advertisement to finding the perfect home and having someone snap it up before you, the process can be grueling.

To help you weed out apartments quickly—and hopefully make the whole process easier—here are 10 things experts say to watch out for during your search.

## A BORING LOCATION

Location is key, according to Sam Radbill, writer for ABO-DO, an apartment search site. "If you're moving from out of town, often you take the first apartment you see. But do your research and make sure it is a good personal fit," said Radbill.

## THE LENGTH OF YOUR LEASE

"As simple as it sounds, some landlords will not clearly state that a lease is six or 12 months, unless you ask," said Radbill. In addition to asking about the length of the lease, ask what happens when it ends—and how and if you can renew it. "If you love your place and your lease ends, you'd hate to have to move because they put it back on the market without asking you first," added Radbill.

## REGULAR RENT INCREASES

One of the most important things to look for when renting an apartment is how much you'll be paying in rent increases. "Make sure you ask about annual rent increases, which are typically based on property tax increases in your

## 10 things to look out for when renting an apartment



DREAMSTIME/TNS  
Here are 10 things to look for to make your next apartment search a success.

city," said Radbill.

"You want to be sure that your rent won't be going up by \$500 after just one year," Radbill said. How much your rent can increase and how much advanced notice your landlord is required to give you varies by state, so explore your local tenants' rights—and other tenancy advice—before you sign the dotted line.

### WHO MANAGES GENERAL MAINTENANCE?

"Try to talk to some current residents about maintenance service, timeliness in response to maintenance requests, as well as the overall ease of living in the building," Radbill said.

A simple question like, "Does it take five weeks to get your sink unclogged?" can tell you a lot about what it's like to live there. "If basic maintenance is that slow, you might

not want to sign a lease in that building," said Radbill.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU BREAK THE LEASE?

Among tips for renting an apartment, knowing if and when you can get out of your lease—should the need arise—is key. "In many cases, job offers come or personal issues occur that result in a need to move immediately," said Radbill. "Find out if you can break your lease. Usually, you cannot. But if you can, that might make the apartment a bit more appealing."

### UNSAVORY PET REGULATIONS

Many apartments have rules about pets—if you can have them, what kind, how many, size and even breed. If the apartment allows pets, ask if you need to make an additional deposit and how cleaning and

repairs related to the pet are handled when you move out.

### A BAD INTERVIEW WITH YOUR LANDLORD

"Of course, the landlord is interviewing you, but keep in mind that you're also interviewing the landlord," said Radbill. For instance, you can learn about any issues with the property—and what costs your landlord is covering. Keep an eye on how the landlord responds to your questions, too. If he seems annoyed, do some extra digging to make sure you and he will get along.

### DAMAGE FROM PREVIOUS TENANTS

Protect your security deposit with a documented walk-through of the property. Taking photos of the apartment before you move in and the day before you move out can protect you from illegitimate

damage charges. Save the pictures until you've moved out and received your deposit.

## COMFORT FOODS: *Chunky Vegetable Soup*

*This soup would be very satisfying on a cool fall day.*

- 1 (14-ounce) can low sodium fat-free beef broth
  - 1 cup chopped carrots
  - 1/2 cup chopped onion
  - 1/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
  - 1 cup chopped zucchini
  - 1/2 cup sliced celery
  - 1 cup peeled and chopped fresh tomato
  - 1 cup low sodium tomato juice
  - 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
1. In a medium saucepan,

combine beef broth, carrots, onion, green pepper, zucchini and celery. Bring mixture to a boil. Stir in tomato, tomato juice and seasoned salt.

2. Lower heat, cover and simmer for 30 to 45 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally. Makes 4 (1 cup) servings.

\* Each serving equals: 56 calories, 0g fat, 3g protein, 11g carbs, 272mg sodium, 36mg calcium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 vegetables; Carb Choices: 1. (**Healthy Exchanges**)

## Life & Style

# Hollywood condemnation of Weinstein grows louder

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The Hollywood establishment, slow to react to the initial sexual harassment allegations against Harvey Weinstein, began speaking out against him more forcefully Monday after the powerful studio boss was fired by his own company.

Among those weighing in were his longtime allies and beneficiaries Meryl Streep, Kate Winslet, Kevin Smith and Judi Dench. They spoke up with a combination of disgust over his alleged behavior and remorse or defensiveness over their own business entanglements with him. Even the actors' labor union SAG-AFTRA joined the chorus in condemning the disgraced movie mogul, calling reports of his alleged conduct "abhorrent and unacceptable."

Director Kevin Smith, whose movies "Clerks" and "Chasing Amy" were produced by Weinstein, noted on Twitter that the producer financed the first 14 years of his career.

"Now I know while I was profiting, others were in terrible pain," Smith wrote. "It makes me feel ashamed."

Weinstein, 65, was fired Sunday by the Weinstein Co., the studio he co-founded, three days after a bombshell New York Times expose alleged decades of crude sexual behavior on his part toward female employees and actresses, including Ashley Judd. The Times said at least eight settlements had been reached with women.

Jennifer Lawrence condemned Weinstein in state-



Weinstein

ment released late Monday, writing that she had never experienced any harassment by him and had not heard allegations of inappropriate behavior before the Times story was published.

"I was deeply disturbed to hear the news about Harvey Weinstein's behavior. I worked with Harvey five years ago and I did not experience any form of harassment personally, nor did I know about any of these allegations. This kind of abuse is inexcusable and absolutely upsetting," Lawrence's statement said.

The actress won an Academy Award for 2012's "Silver Linings Playbook," which was produced by The Weinstein Co.

"My heart goes out to all of the women affected by these gross actions. And I want to thank them for their bravery to come forward," Lawrence said.

Streep, who once called Weinstein "God" while accepting the Golden Globe for "The Iron Lady," condemned his alleged conduct as "inexcusable" while also saying she did not know about it before.

"The disgraceful news about Harvey Weinstein has appalled those of us whose work he championed, and those whose good and worthy causes he supported," Streep said in a statement.

Stories of his behavior, she said, were not universally known in Hollywood.

"Harvey supported the work fiercely, was exasperating but respectful with me in our working relationship, and



In this Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017, file photo, actress Meryl Streep poses for photographers upon arrival at the British Academy Film Awards in London.

AP

with many others with whom he worked professionally," Streep continued. "If everybody knew, I don't believe that all the investigative reporters in the entertainment and the hard news media would have neglected for decades to write about it."

Similarly, Dench, whose awards and nominations have been inextricably linked for two decades to Weinstein, first at his company Miramax and then at the Weinstein Co., said in a statement that she was "completely unaware" of the "horrifying" offenses.

"I offer my sympathy to those who have suffered and wholehearted support to those who have spoken out," she wrote.

Dench won a best supporting actress Oscar for "Shake-

peare in Love" and a nomination for "Philomena."

Not all were completely blindsided, however.

Kate Winslet, who won an Oscar for The Weinstein Co.'s "The Reader" said in a statement that the alleged behavior is "without question disgraceful and appalling."

"I had hoped that these kind of stories were just made up rumors, maybe we have all been naïve," Winslet wrote.

Glenn Close had also heard the "vague rumors" of his inappropriate behavior toward.

"Harvey has always been decent to me, but now that the rumors are being substantiated, I feel angry and darkly sad," Close said in a statement to the New York Times. "I'm angry, not just at him and the

conspiracy of silence around his actions, but also that the 'casting couch' phenomenon, so to speak, is still a reality in our business and in the world: the horrible pressure, the awful expectation put on a woman when a powerful, egotistical, entitled bully expects sexual favors in exchange for a job."

Close called on everyone to unite on both an institutional and personal level to create a new culture of "respect, equality and empowerment."

In ousting him from the company, the Weinstein board of directors said it was reacting to "new information about misconduct by Harvey Weinstein that has emerged in the past few days." It did not elaborate.

A studio insider who was

not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity told The Associated Press that the Weinstein Co. plans to change its name.

Also, Weinstein's name will be stripped from the TV series "Waco" and "Yellowstone," among other projects.

Actress Lena Dunham tweeted Sunday night, "Easy to think Weinstein company took swift action but this has actually been the slowest action because they always always knew."

Under Weinstein's leadership, the Weinstein Co. has been a dominant force at the Oscars. It accomplished the rare feat of winning back-to-back best picture Academy Awards with "The King's Speech" and "The Artist."

## Radio host Delilah taking break after son's suicide

Radio host Delilah said she is taking a break from her nationally syndicated program to grieve after her son took his own life last week.

Delilah posted on Facebook Saturday that her son, Zachariah, killed himself Tuesday morning. Zachariah "was being treated, counseled, and embraced fiercely by family and friends while battling depression for some time now," she said.

"I will be absent from the radio and on social media for a time as I grieve and try to process this loss with my family," she wrote. "Please pray for my beloved Zacky,

and I will pray for all suffering from this debilitating disease called depression."

Delilah added a picture of her son with the post. She didn't say how old he was.

Ten of Delilah's 13 children are adopted. Another son, Sammy, died in 2012 at the age of 16 amid a battle with sickle cell anemia.

Delilah's full name is Delilah Rene, though she uses only her first name on-air. The "Delilah" show is a mix of love songs and callers sharing personal stories that airs nightly on dozens of iHeartMedia stations around the U.S. (AP)

## Cheers! Modelo inks multimillion-dollar ad deal with UFC

By DAN GELSTON,  
AP SPORTS WRITER

Ultimate Fighting Championship has struck a multiyear deal with Modelo Especial that will make the Mexican import the official beer and malt beverage of the world's largest MMA company.

Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. had held that title since 2008 and its Bud Light logo had frequently stamped the center of the octagon for UFC's biggest fights.

Modelo's multimillion deal starts in 2018 and the partnership is only for United States events. Modelo's branding and signage will adorn the UFC cage and the company promised to feature UFC ath-

letes and personalities in advertising. The contract terms were not released.

"Modelo is an amazing brand that shares UFC's unmatched commitment to its fan base," UFC President Dana White said. "I love Modelo and we're already talking about doing a lot of exciting things together."

Modelo is the No. 2 import brand in the United States behind Corona.

Modelo has several team sponsorships, including with the Chicago White Sox and Golden State Warriors, and hoped a league-wide deal with UFC could aid in its growth.

"They want to get more into multicultural consumers," said Jim Sabia, Modelo's chief

marketing officer. "We all benefit. They're going to help take our brand into the general market consumer household."

The Modelo family of beers are exclusively brewed, imported and marketed for the U.S. by Constellations Brands. Constellation is the No. 3 beer company in the United States.

Anheuser-Busch wasn't afraid to use its pull within the sport and once threatened to pull advertising if UFC didn't address accusations of sexism and homophobia. Former UFC champion Brock Lesnar was also forced to apologize when he dissed Bud Light at UFC 100.

Sabia said Modelo would remain diligent about UFC's

code of conduct policies.

"We feel very confident in what they do with their athletes and its integrity," he said.

The Anheuser-Busch endorsement was a key step for the sport to rise above niche status toward mainstream entertainment.

"When Bud signed on to be our sponsor, it sent a significant message that UFC was a real player in the sports landscape," UFC Chief Operating Officer Ike Lawrence Epstein said. "It gave us a tremendous amount of credibility with other sponsors. And not just sponsors. Television networks and venues and, frankly, anybody involved in the business of sports entertainment around the world."

# Chelsea Manning finds a sympathetic crowd in NY appearance

**NEW YORK** (AP)—She may have been disinvited by Harvard and turned away from Canada, but Chelsea Manning earned applause, laughter and even some tears of empathy from a friendly crowd at the annual New Yorker Festival.

Manning, who was released in May after seven years in military prison, was by turns impassioned, defensive, humorous and occasionally tearful in a panel discussion Sunday with New Yorker writer Larissa MacFarquhar.

She became emotional when asked what she thought the best result had been of her leaking of hundreds of thousands of classified documents to WikiLeaks. "Look, I haven't had time to deal with these questions," she said. "All I've been doing is fighting for my life for the last seven years."

The 29-year-old transgender woman was known as Bradley Manning when she was convicted and sentenced to 35 years in prison. In his last days in office, President Barack Obama commuted the rest of her sentence.

Manning has made only a few appearances since her release. Last month, Harvard University reversed a decision to name her a visiting fellow after CIA director Mike Pompeo scrapped a planned appearance over the designation, calling Manning an "American traitor."

And Manning tweeted two weeks later that she'd been denied entry into Canada because of her U.S. criminal record.

While some see her as a traitor, others see her as a hero for exposing truths of war. One audience questioner cried as she referred to what Manning had been through—"just the unbelievable price that you've had to pay."



In this photo provided by The New Yorker, Chelsea Manning, left, speaks to New Yorker writer Larissa MacFarquhar during an appearance at the New Yorker Festival on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017, in New York. AP

mants. She insisted the material included no such sensitive information.

"These aren't intelligence documents," she said. "It's historical data."

"There's nothing sensitive in there, there's no troop movements," she added. "It was a historical record of everything that had happened in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Manning's appearance was one of the marquee events at the annual three-day festival, which brings together authors, artists, politicians and other newsmakers. Others appearing included Sen. Al Franken, artist Ai Weiwei, former federal

prosecutor Preet Bharara and comedian Jerry Seinfeld. Organizers said more than 20,000 people attended, with ticket buyers from 49 states (all but Nebraska) and 23 countries.

Manning began by describing her childhood in small-town Oklahoma—"a typical generic town in the middle of the country"—her turbulent domestic life, and a short time living homeless on the streets of Chicago.

She said she'd learned to program computers by age 8 or 9, and eventually joined the military because she thought "I could use my skills and make a difference." Once she

got to Iraq, she said, she was overwhelmed by the death and destruction she saw.

On a 10-day leave back home in Washington, she said, she first tried to leak the documents to the Washington Post or The New York Times—simply because she had seen

Manning spoke in detail of her time in prison, especially in solitary confinement. "Humans are a social creature," she said, fighting tears. "We need connections. We need to be with each other."

She said she got through much of the seven years by setting small, incremental goals, like getting "from breakfast to lunch to dinner to sleep." When the rules forbid her to exercise, she said, she started to dance, and her guards didn't stop her. So she thought, she said, "OK, that's how I'll exercise, like Zumba."

## ESPN suspends anchor for breaking social media rules

**HARTFORD, Conn.** (AP)—ESPN suspended anchor Je-melle Hill on Monday for two weeks for making political statements on social media.

Hill, an African-American co-host of the 6 p.m. broadcast of "SportsCenter," received backlash last month after referring to President Donald Trump as a "white supremacist" in a series of tweets that referenced the president's comments about a deadly white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Trump later suggested that NFL players be fired for not standing during the national anthem. In tweets on Sunday, Hill targeted Jerry Jones after the Dallas Cowboys owner stated that players who disrespect the flag would not play for his team.

Hill suggested on Twitter that fans who disagree with Jones should boycott the team's advertisers and not buy the team's merchandise.

"Cowboys have a huge national following," she wrote in one of a series of tweets. "Lot of black & brown folks are Cowboys fans. What if they turned their backs on them?"

She clarified Monday she was not calling for an NFL boycott.

ESPN said in a statement

Monday that Hill had acknowledged "letting her colleagues and company down" with the Trump tweet.

"In the aftermath, all employees were reminded of how individual tweets may reflect negatively on ESPN and that such actions would have consequences. Hence this decision," the statement said.

Hill had called the president "a white supremacist who has largely surrounded himself w/ other white supremacists." She wrote that he was "the most ignorant, offensive president of my lifetime." She called him a bigot and said it was the height of white privilege to ignore his white supremacy because it wasn't a threat.

"Well, it's a threat to me," she typed.

Hill did not immediately reply to a request for comment on her suspension.

Before she was suspended, Hill responded Sunday to a Twitter follower who suggested that NFL players would learn a lesson about "getting fired for not doing what your boss requires you to do."

"Because if we did everything the boss said, Americans would still be dying of tuberculosis in factories," she replied.

## Puerto Rico slum transformed by 'Despacito' seeks to revive

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico** (AP)—Hope had come in with a song for La Perla, a seaside slum that had long been notorious as a violent enclave that served as Puerto Rico's biggest distribution point for heroin.

The sound of clicking cameras and excited chatter had begun to break the morning silence. Tourists rambled through the narrow streets lined with brightly painted homes. Restaurants and other shops were popping up, catering to tourists drawn by the setting for the video of the worldwide hit song "Despacito," which had been viewed billions of times since its release in January.

Then Hurricane Maria hit, ripping away power lines, water service, rooftops and even the newly installed banners that directed tourists to spots shown in the famed video.

With tourism to Puerto Rico as a whole abruptly halted, the only visitors to La Perla since the Sept. 20 storm have been people like the

U.S. National Park Service workers who came to distribute bottles of water.

"Right now we're all mired in a depression," said Carmen Perez, a 77-year-old retiree who joined dozens of other La Perla residents with outstretched arms to receive the donated water.

One of the businesses that had boomed since "Despacito," the La Garita restaurant, lost all four concrete walls to the hurricane, leaving only the kitchen standing.

"People didn't use to fit in here," said owner Ibilson Morales as he gestured toward the largely vacant spot where his restaurant once stood. "This used to be the most visited neighborhood in Puerto Rico."

La Perla is a sort of scenic shantytown of about 350 people that emerged more than a century ago on a narrow strip of Atlantic shoreline between the crashing waves and the towering walls of Old San Juan. Few outsiders ventured through

the handful of entrances to the place, nor were they welcome. At one spot, a wooden sign proclaimed: "Not open to visitors. Do not enter."

"Before, people were very afraid," said Angel Antonio Lopez, a 77-year-old La Perla resident.

The neighborhood's dark reputation was stoked by an old video showing a drug dealer run up to another during the day and shoot him several times point-blank in the head. A self-described hit man turned federal witness said the bodies of many people killed in La Perla were tossed into the sea so sharks would eat them.

A bright yellow line painted on one of its narrow streets served as a boundary between rival drug dealers, some of whom used poisonous frogs to protect their drug stashes.

Much of the criminal activity was shut down when hundreds of agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration raided the slum in 2011 and arrested dozens

of people, including a well-known community leader, who was later convicted.

Government and private-sector initiatives were launched to try to clean the place up. A new bakery was built, and houses were painted bright colors.

Then came "Despacito." Puerto Rican singers Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee chose the slum as a backdrop for their video, which YouTube said attracted a record 3 billion views, and tourists began to pour in, greeted by welcoming calls from a bar owner and by a street vendor offering fried snacks and cold beers.

Many people in La Perla had hoped the transformation would help secure the community's future and protect it from real estate interests who have long eyed the seaside neighborhood as a prime spot for redevelopment.

The newfound vibrancy even prompted a visit by the island's tourism secretary, Jose Izquierdo.

# Stormtroopers on Soldier Field introduce 'Last Jedi' trailer

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The trailer for "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" debuted in dramatic fashion during Monday Night

Football halftime. Fireworks flashed and Stormtroopers marched onto Chicago's Soldier Field as the preview

## 'American Horror' tones down scene after Las Vegas shooting

**NEW YORK** (AP)—FX network is making what it calls "substantial edits" to tone down the gun violence in a scene set to air during Tuesday's episode of "American Horror Story."

The network said Monday it would substitute the edited version of that opening sequence "in light of the tragedy last week in Las Vegas."

The scene, filmed two months ago, portrays an occurrence of gun violence

that, in the network's words, "has sadly become all too common in our country." FX said some viewers might have found it traumatic.

While only the edited version will air on the linear channel, FX said the unedited version will be available through its on-demand platforms.

Now in its seventh season, "American Horror Story" regularly lives up to its name with ghoulish and violent displays.

## Impersonator in chief Baldwin headlines Iowa Democrats event

**DES MOINES, Iowa** (AP)—Strange as it seems, Iowa Democrats can expect to see Donald Trump at the state party's annual marquee fundraiser next month.

That is, in the form of actor Alec Baldwin, the walking parody of the Republican president.

The actor who received an Emmy award last month for his running parody of Trump on Saturday Night Live is to be the keynote speaker at the state party banquet in Des Moines on Nov. 27.

It's a role often reserved for presidential prospects in the leadoff presidential caucus state.

Whether or not Baldwin entertains the light-hearted urgings of former President Bill Clinton to run for president, Baldwin should certainly expect an audience hungry for

lifted spirits.

Iowa Democrats are at a 20-year low, having reveled for the past eight years in first launching Barack Obama to the presidential nomination and twice delivering the state for him.

But today, Republicans control the Statehouse in Des Moines, both U.S. Senate seats and a majority of U.S. House seats.

"Heading into the 2018 midterm elections and beyond, I have decided to re-dedicate my efforts to helping the Democratic Party win across the country," Baldwin said in a statement distributed by the Iowa Democratic Party.

"That effort begins in earnest in Iowa."

Iowa Democrats see the state's governor's race as a prime opportunity to recapture power in the state.

played onscreen.

It featured new and familiar characters from the Star Wars universe. The clip opens with voiceover from Adam Driver's Kylo Ren saying, "When I found you, I saw raw,

untamed power—and beyond that, something truly special." Then Rey (Daisy Ridley) is shown wielding her light saber and questioning her destiny as Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) observes, "I've seen

this raw strength only once before. It didn't scare me enough then. It does now."

John Boyega, Oscar Isaac and Carrie Fisher also appear in the trailer, as does Chewbacca and a new bird-like

creature known as a Porg.

"The Last Jedi" is the latest installment in the Star Wars franchise since the Disney reboot that began with 2015's "The Force Awakens." It's set to hit theaters Dec. 15.

## U2's Bono asks Argentine president about missing activist

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina** (AP)—U2's lead singer Bono asked Argentina's president on Monday about an activist who went missing after police cleared protesters from a highway more than two months ago.

Bono said he spoke to President Mauricio Macri about Santiago Maldonado during a meeting in Buenos Aires and that he was "glad" that Macri is taking the case "seriously."

The Irish singer and social activist is a member of Am-

nesty International, which has demanded answers in a case that has turned problematic for Macri's government as human rights groups accuse it of being part of a cover up.

In a statement, Argentina's presidency said Macri told Bono about "all the actions that have been carried out to locate the whereabouts of the young man and the permanent cooperation that is being given to the justice system to clear up the case."

Maldonado, an artisan and tattoo artist, went missing on

Aug. 1. Protesters were demanding the release of a jailed Mapuche indigenous leader and the return of lands belonging to Italian clothing company Benetton that are claimed by the Mapuche as their ancestral territory.

Witnesses say border police detained Maldonado after he and others blocked a road in Chubut province, about 1,100 miles (1,800 kilometers) southwest of the Argentine capital. Authorities deny wrongdoing.

But the disappearance has

hit a raw nerve in Argentina, where human rights groups estimate about 30,000 people died or were forcibly disappeared during the 1976-1983 military dictatorship.

Tens of thousands of Argentines have staged protests in streets demanding the government find the 28-year-old alive, while politicians from opposing political parties, soccer players and celebrities have joined a social media campaign under the slogan: "Where is Santiago Maldonado?"

## Racy texts from co-worker cause man's wife concern

**D**EAR ABBY: My husband, "Ralph," and I have been married for 30 years. He recently started receiving sexually oriented texts from a male co-worker I'll call Mike. What Ralph once read aloud to me saying, "He's such a goof. Listen to this!" has now become covert reading for him.

Ralph and I have no secrets. Our phones are accessible to each other, so sometimes if his phone is lying around, I'll see things such as "Sitting on the deck with just a towel on the bits and pieces. Nice breeze!" with heart eye emojis. They are later deleted.

I have asked Ralph point-blank if he has feelings for Mike, which he denies. But he won't ask him to stop, either. Ralph knows this worries me and has me questioning our relationship. I'm tempted to contact Mike myself, but I'm not sure if that's the best way to proceed. Thoughts?

BAFFLED IN ST. LOUIS

**DEAR BAFFLED:** Your husband may not have feelings for this co-worker, but his co-worker appears to have some for him. Either way, Mike's behavior is unusual. While I don't think you should contact him, this is something you should revisit with your husband because you find it threatening.

DEAR ABBY: A man came to my home today to fix a tech

problem and proceeded to hit on me. Abby, he was at least 10 years older than me (I'm 23), and it was so unprofessional. I was home alone, and being faced with that situation caused me to turn red. He then commented on my blushing, and I just sat there saying nothing.

I am berating myself for not speaking up, and I'm disgusted that he assumed I was blushing because I liked the attention when it was the opposite! At the same time, I am fearful of a man reacting aggressively if I were to say something.

I was hoping you could tell me what to say or do in order to better handle these situations in the future. I want to be more vocal; I just don't know how to be.

BLUSHING IN TEXAS

**DEAR BLUSHING:** Whether you were red with embarrassment or pale with anger is irrelevant. You should report him to his employer to make sure he will never come to your home again.

A way to protect yourself in the future might be to arrange to have someone else present under those circumstances. If someone behaves inappropriately during a service call to your home, you are within your rights to tell the person you want him to leave IMMEDIATELY, and that is what you should have done.

DEAR ABBY: I recently went to the movies with a couple

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

of friends. At the concession stand, I bought popcorn. They did not. However, as we sat down, they eyed my popcorn as I was munching. I didn't offer them any. I figured they could have bought their own if they wanted some. Should I have? It's been bothering me ever since. Was I selfish?

MATINEE MUNCHER

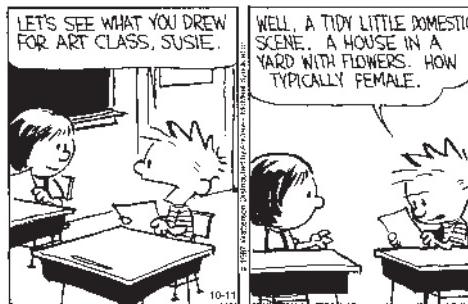
**DEAR MUNCHER:** The polite thing to do would have been to offer them some of your popcorn. As to whether not doing so was selfish, the answer is: "Mmmmmmm." (I'd say it more clearly, but my mouth is full.)

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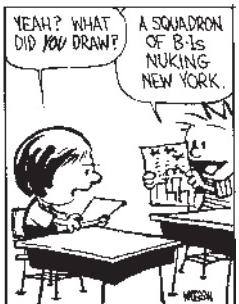


# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®



By Jim Davis



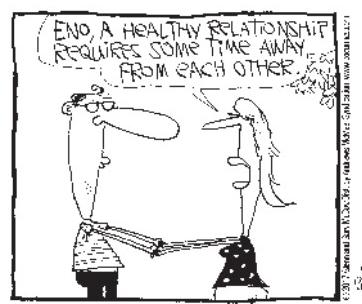
## Adam@home



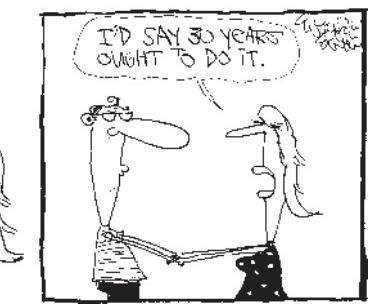
By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

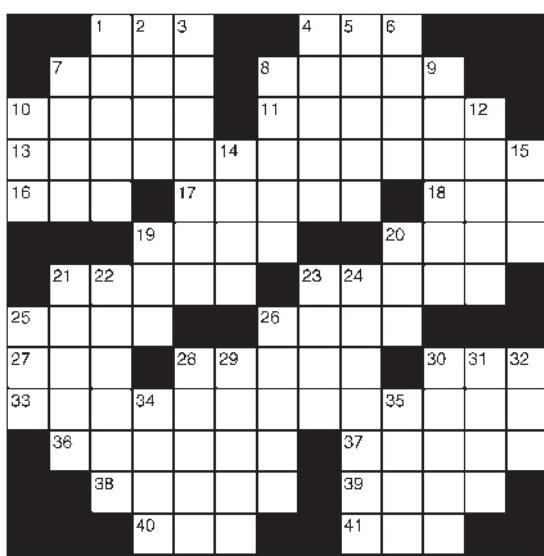


## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	28	Debonair	2	Frost	15	AAA
1	It's c-c-cold!	30 — Paulo	3	Calming	job	
4	Drunkard	33 "Stop	4	Fry	19 Spy	
7	Writer Wiesel	slacking	5	Should,	20 Insult,	
8	"Kinsey" actress	off!"	6	Loyal	21 Expert	
10	Linney	36 Cancel	7	Flightless	22 Lessened	
Mosque	VIPs	out	8	birds	23 Used a	
11	Majestic	37 Solemn	9	Jousting	loom	
13	Director's directive	promises	10	Order	24 "Excel- lent!"	
16	Old map letters	38 Postpone	11	Claim	25 Plead	
17	Diamond side	39 Grimace	12	Cancel	26 "Real	
18	Tic-tac- toe loser	40 Where	13	stats	Time"	
19	Cool veggie	41 Kreskin's	14	MenSA	host	
20	Sketch	claim	15	stats	Bill	
21	Sends a letter	16 DOWN	16	Former	12 Amarillo's	28 Major
23	Is patient	17	17	British	state	mix-up
25	Rum cake	18	18	P.M.	14 Erstwhile	29 Out-and-
26	Cuts the grass	19	19	Tony	acorns	out
27	Ms. Longoria	20	20			30 Ab
						exercise
						31 Rue the
						run
						32 Ap-
						proves
						34 Curved
						molding
						35 New
						Mexico
						resort

Solution time: 23 mins.  
 Yesterday's answer 10-11

**STUMPED?**

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## CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Michelle Trachtenberg, 32; Trevor Donovan, 39; Matt Bomer, 40; Emily Deschanel, 41.

**Happy Birthday:** Choose your words wisely this year. Look at the big picture and you'll find a way to outmaneuver anyone trying to use emotional tactics to push you in a different direction. You can draw strength from your experience and knowledge, and rely on your vast number of associates in order to reach whatever goal you set. Your numbers are 5, 18, 20, 22, 31, 36, 44.

**TAURUS** (March 21-April 19): If someone puts pressure on you to change, consider why and react with intelligence. Only do what feels right and is in your best interest. A change at home will help stabilize your life and your personal or professional position. **★**

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): You'll come up with a plan that will help someone or something you believe in. Make your intentions clear and set your plans in motion. Your actions will make a difference and give you the confidence you need to move forward. **★★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Take a unique path when it comes to how you earn your living, or use your skills to increase your income. Personal problems will surface if you are not honest about the choices you want to make. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Expressing your feelings may get things out in the open, but that doesn't necessarily mean it will lead to a good ending. Consider the consequences of your actions before you are too open

about what you want. **★★★**

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Define how you want to move forward personally or professionally. Reuniting with someone you have worked with in the past will be inspiring and give you options you didn't realize you had. Keep things simple and affordable. **★★★**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): If someone puts pressure on you to change, consider why and react with intelligence. Only do what feels right and is in your best interest. A change at home will help stabilize your life and your personal or professional position. **★**

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): You'll come up with a plan that will help someone or something you believe in. Make your intentions clear and set your plans in motion. Your actions will make a difference and give you the confidence you need to move forward. **★★★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Take a unique path when it comes to how you earn your living, or use your skills to increase your income. Personal problems will surface if you are not honest about the choices you want to make. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Expressing your feelings may get things out in the open, but that doesn't necessarily mean it will lead to a good ending. Consider the consequences of your actions before you are too open

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone from a different background than you, or who has an alternative perspective, will help you find the common ground that will encourage forward motion instead of stagnation. **★★★**

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Check out an opportunity that interests you, but do so secretly. Gather all the facts and consider the possible outcomes before sharing that information with anyone who may be influenced by your decision. Preparation will lead to success. **★★★★**

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An opportunity may not be as good as anticipated.

Refuse to let your emotions get involved in an important decision you have to make. Look at the facts and use common sense and practical applications to reach your goals. **★**

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Check out an opportunity that interests you, but do so secretly. Gather all the facts and consider the possible outcomes before sharing that information with anyone who may be influenced by your decision. Preparation will lead to success. **★★★★**

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone from a different background than you, or who has an alternative perspective, will help you find the common ground that will encourage forward motion instead of stagnation. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Expressing your feelings may get things out in the open, but that doesn't necessarily mean it will lead to a good ending. Consider the consequences of your actions before you are too open

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD  
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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Share your emotions and consider how best to handle matters that have to do with a sibling or close friend. Setting up a workable agreement can help you both prosper. Directing positive reinforcement to others will ensure that you succeed in return. **★★★**

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take an unusual approach when dealing with children, personal finances and contracts you want to revisit. Thinking outside the box will give you the edge you need to outsmart anyone who may oppose you. A change will do you good. **★★★**

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Liven up your life. Attend events or volunteer to help an organization you believe in. Your contributions will be well-received and put you in a good position for when you need something in return. Romance is highlighted. **★★★★★**

**Birthday Baby:** You are creative, unique and interesting. You are unpredictable and entertaining.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			6					
6	4		1	3	8	5	9	
3		4	9	1		8		
5		7	6			4		
6		9	1			5		
7	2			8	1			
		1			6			
		6	4					
	2	5	3					

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	6	3	8	7	1	2	5	4
5	8	4	2	6	9	3	1	7
7	2	1	3	5	4	6	8	9
2	3	8	4	1	7	5	9	6
6	4	9	5	3	8	1	7	2
1	7	5	9	2	6	4	3	8
8	5	6	1	9	2	7	4	3
3	9	2	7	4	5	8	6	1
4	1	7	6	8	3	9	2	5

Difficulty Level ★ 10/11

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID  
OUELLET

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# Dodgers beat Diamondbacks to return to NLCS

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Led by a big Japanese right-hander and a rookie from just down the road, the Los Angeles Dodgers are headed back to the NL Championship Series.

Cody Bellinger homered, drove in two runs and flipped over a dugout railing to steal an out for a dominant Yu Darvish, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-1 Monday night to finish a three-game sweep in their NL Division Series.

Darvish, acquired from Texas in a trade deadline deal, struck out seven over five innings to outpitch Arizona's Zack Greinke and earn the right his first postseason victory in three tries.

Four Los Angeles relievers combined to preserve a three-hitter. Kenley Jansen worked around a single by David Peralta for a three-out save, striking out Paul Goldschmidt to end it. Only four batters reached base all night for the Diamondbacks, including Daniel Descalso with a homer.

The Dodgers, who won 104 games for the best record in baseball and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, face the winner of the Nationals-Cubs series in the NLCS. Los Angeles lost there to World Series champion Chicago last year.

Bellinger—from nearby Chandler, Arizona—hit his homer in the fifth, then made a daring catch to end the bottom of the inning. The rookie first baseman fell into the Dodgers dugout as he snagged Jeff Mathis' popup, nearly dropping into the lap of manager Dave Roberts.

The 22-year-old Bellinger is the youngest Dodger ever to homer in the postseason—he's 75 days younger than Corey Seager was when he set the mark last fall. He was just 1 for 12 with five strikeouts in his first postseason before hitting Greinke's 3-1 pitch over the wall in left for a 2-0 lead.

Bellinger also brought home Chris Taylor with a groundout in the first inning, and Austin Barnes chased Greinke with a leadoff homer in the sixth.

After Ketel Marte's first-inning bunt single, Darvish sent down 13 in a row before Descalso hit his second homer of the series. The two-out shot barely cleared the right-field fence over Yasiel Puig's glove to cut the lead to 2-1.

Darvish left after hitting pinch-hitter Christian Walker in the bill of his helmet to begin the sixth.

Greinke—the ex-Dodger signed to a \$206.5 million, six-year contract by Arizona before the 2016 season —gave up three runs and four



Los Angeles Dodgers Justin Turner (10) fields a ground out by Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Zack Greinke during the third inning of Game 3 of baseball's National League Division Series, Monday, Oct. 9, 2017, in Phoenix. AP

Detroit, gave up the go-ahead homer to Andrew Benintendi—the first batter he faced—before shutting Boston down for the next 2 2/3 innings.

The former AL MVP and Cy Young winner earned the victory in his first relief appearance after 424 starts in a major and minor league career.

"All the things that you would like to do as a starter, and I was able to do that," Verlander said. "Top to bottom, man, these guys grinded against two of the toughest competitors in this game in Sale and (closer Craig) Kimbrel."

The Astros will open the ALCS on Friday, either at Cleveland or at home against the New York Yankees. The Indians held a 2-1 edge over the Yankees going into Game 4 of the AL Division Series on Monday night.

The Red Sox forced a Game 4 after losing the first two games in Houston, and then took a 3-2 lead in the fifth on Benintendi's homer. Bregman tied it before Reddick's single off closer Craig Kimbrel made it 4-3.

Carlos Beltran added to his postseason legacy with an RBI double in the ninth—an insurance run that became the game-winner when Rafael Devers hit an inside-the-park homer off closer Ken Giles over leaping center fielder George Springer and off the Green Monster toward center.

The 20-year-old Red Sox rookie easily circled the bases before the throw to make it 5-4.

Giles retired the next three batters for the six-out save.

"The two big boys, Sale and Verlander, both get into the game. Everybody did well," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said. "Nobody really wanted to concede the game."

The Astros last reached the league championship series in 2005 as a National League team, and were swept in the World Series by the White Sox. This year's team, wearing "Houston Strong" patches to support the city that was flooded in Hurricane Harvey, is hoping to finish the job.

"The city of Houston is still rebuilding," Hinch said. "It's easy for us to look in the rear-view mirror and think that the hurricane is over (but) the rebuild is not going to stop for a long time. We want to win for them, we want to win for us, we want to win because we showed up in spring training to try to win a World Series."

## Severino, Judge help Yankees force deciding Game 5

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Luis Severino, Aaron Judge and the New York Yankees are headed back to Cleveland for a decisive Game 5—thanks to plenty of help from the Indians.

Severino rebounded from his playoff debacle, Judge delivered a big hit and the Yankees took advantage of shoddy defense by Cleveland to beat the Indians 7-3 Monday night and even their AL Division Series at two games apiece.

"We've got a shot now," said New York manager Joe Girardi, harshly criticized for his Game 2 decisions. "So it's a totally different feeling than it was the other day, and these guys have picked me up."

Gary Sanchez homered and a slumping Judge laced an early two-run double for his only hit of the series to go with 12 strikeouts in 15 at-bats.

Cleveland starter Trevor Bauer struggled on three days' rest and was chased in the second inning. But it was on the wet Yankee Stadium field where the Indians re-

ally flopped, committing a season-high four errors that marked a franchise record for a postseason game and led to six unearned runs.

The defending AL champions made only 76 errors all season, the lowest total in the league.

"The whole night, we made it hard on ourselves to win," manager Terry Francona said.

After preventing a three-game sweep with a 1-0 win Sunday night, the wild-card Yankees will start CC Sabathia against his original team in Game 5 on Wednesday.

Indians ace Corey Kluber gets the ball in a rematch from Game 2, when he was hit hard by New York.

"It's hard to imagine giving it to somebody better," Francona said. "We're looking forward to it."

The winner faces Houston in the AL Championship Series after the Astros finished off Boston in four games Monday to win their ALDS.

"We've got a young team

and they're hungry," Severino said.

Simply taking two in a row to send the series back to Cleveland was no small feat for the Yankees. The last time the Indians lost consecutive games was Aug. 22-23

at home against Boston, just before starting their AL-record 22-game winning streak. From that point on, Cleveland had gone 35-4 before arriving in the Bronx for Game 3 of the ALDS.

Minus injured slugger Edwin Encarnacion, the Indians have scored three runs in two games since.

Severino got only one out in the wild-card game against Minnesota last Tuesday, but was bailed out by his teammates as New York advanced with an 8-4 victory. This time, the 23-year-old ace was determined to come through, and he did.

"I think he was able to relax a lot more. He was able to control his adrenaline," Girardi said. "He was able

to channel things down and make his pitch, as opposed to just trying to power his way through it."

Handed an early 5-0 lead and showing lots of emotion on the mound, the fired-up righty struck out nine in seven innings. With the crowd of 47,316 chanting his name, Severino threw 113 pitches and gave up four hits—including Carlos Santana's two-run homer and Roberto Perez's solo shot.

"I told him after the game, he grew up a lot today," Girardi said.

Tommy Kahnle relieved a wild Dellin Betances in the eighth and got six straight outs—five on strikeouts—for his first save of the season as New York improved to 3-0 when facing playoff elimination this year.

"There's a lot of confidence in that room," Girardi said.

Sanchez hit his second home run of the series off Bryan Shaw in the sixth to make it 7-3.

Arizona won its last six regular-season games against the Dodgers, but Los Angeles dominated its NL West rival when it mattered most, sweeping an opponent in the postseason for the first time since the 2009 NLDS against St. Louis.

No matter, they were already soaked from celebratory beer and sparkling wine.

"Both teams were throwing their guys, and that's what you live for," Houston third baseman Alex Bregman said on Monday after Justin Verlander came out of the bullpen to beat Chris Sale in an aces-turned-relievers role reversal and helped the Astros eliminate the Red Sox in four games with a 5-4 victory.

"When we saw Verlander run to the 'pen we said, 'Our horse is on the mound, we need to win this game,'" said Bregman, who homered off Sale to tie it in the eighth before Josh Reddick's single gave the Astros the lead.

"That's kind of the whole energy that he's brought since we brought him over here. He's brought an energy with him that, 'Hey, when he's out there, we're going to win.'

Verlander, who was acquired for the playoff run after spending his first 13 seasons in

hits in five-plus innings. He struggled with his command, walking a season-high five and throwing 103 pitches through five innings. Greinke faced 3-2 counts against five of his first eight batters and was at 54 pitches through two innings.

The Dodgers tinkered with Darvish's mechanics after the trade, and he was masterful through most of the night, mixing a 98 mph fastball with his deep repertoire of offspeed pitches. He allowed two hits and didn't walk any over 74 pitches.

### Astros oust Red Sox, advance to ALCS

In Boston, Houston Astros poured back onto the field after advancing to their first AL Championship Series, posing for pictures with the Green

# Vikings spoil Trubisky's debut with Bears



**CHICAGO**  
 (AP) — Case Keenum gave the Vikings the lift they needed, and that was just enough to spoil Mitchell Trubisky's highly anticipated debut.

Keenum led three second-half scoring drives after Sam Bradford's troublesome left knee flared up again, and the Minnesota Vikings beat Trubisky and the Chicago Bears 20-17 on Monday night.

Kai Forbath kicked a 26-yard field goal in the closing seconds after Harrison Smith intercepted Trubisky, and the Vikings (3-2) came away with the win after dropping two of three.

"I didn't know (if I would play)," Keenum said. "That's something I've tried not to think about. I tried to approach the week like I was starting. I did the same thing I did the previous four weeks. I did the same thing I've done every week I've been in the NFL. I've tried to prepare like I've been the starter."

Called on after Mike Glennon struggled in the first four games, Trubisky played like he belonged. The No. 2 overall pick was 12 of 25 for 128 yards with a touchdown.

The interception came after the Bears (1-4) took over on their 10 with 2:32 left in the game. Smith picked off a pass intended for Zach Miller on the right sideline at the 22.

The Vikings got the ball at the 28, and Forbath booted the winner with 16 seconds left.

Sidelined the previous three games because of swelling and soreness in his surgically repaired left knee, Bradford aggravated the joint when he was tackled in the first half.

**COUVA, Trinidad** (AP) — The final path to the World Cup involved an unexpected water crossing for the United States.

Heavy rain on this Caribbean island 7+ miles off the coast of Venezuela left the center of Ato Boldon Stadium's field soggy, the flanks submerged and the encircling running track flooded. While the team's 10,000 pounds of equipment included 200 boots, 65 balls, 60 rain jackets and 30 cases of Powerade, a Bailey bridge was not in the inventory, so many American players were carried onto the field in an attempt to keep their feet somewhat dry for the final training session before Tuesday's match against Trinidad and Tobago.

"I saw the field and I just kind of giggled," star American midfielder Christian Pulisic said.

The Trinidad and Tobago



Chicago Bears strong safety Adrian Amos (38) and cornerback Kyle Fuller (23) break up a pass intended for Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Stefon Diggs (14) during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 9, 2017, in Chicago.

With limited mobility, he completed just 5 of 11 passes for 36 yards and was sacked four times—including a safety by Leonard Floyd. Bradford was listed as limited in practice during the week, though coach Mike Zimmer said there was "no doubt" he would play.

He wasn't sure how much more time Bradford will miss. "We wouldn't put him on the field if he wasn't healthy enough to play," Zimmer said. "He was very confident about it. He felt good about it. The medical people felt good about it. Everybody. We practiced on turf for two days this week, too, so that's even a little bit harder on the legs. But I don't think there was

any doubt whatsoever he was ready to go."

Keenum replaced him with 25 seconds left in the first half and went 17 of 21 for 140 yards and a touchdown.

Jerick McKinnon had a 58-yard touchdown run. Everson Griffen contributed a strip-sack against Trubisky that led to a field goal, and the Vikings beat Chicago on the road for just the third time in 17 games.

The Bears simplified their offense for Trubisky, with fewer receivers and extra blockers at times. But he still showed the mobility and arm strength that convinced general manager Ryan Pace to trade up a spot with San Francisco to grab him on draft night.

"I was trying to just (elevate teammates) with my presence, how much I love this game and how much I love this team," he said. "I think they have faith in me. They believe in me when I'm in that huddle and when I'm making plays."

Jordan Howard ran for 76 yards. Pat O'Donnell threw a 38-yard touchdown to Benny Cunningham on a fake punt. Floyd had two sacks.

Minnesota was leading 3-2 when Keenum hit Kyle Rudolph for a 13-yard touchdown midway through the third quarter. The Vikings celebrated by playing duck-duck-goose in the end zone -- a play Rudolph called in the huddle before the TD.

The Bears lined up to punt on a fourth down at the Minnesota 38 on the next possession. But O'Donnell passed to a wide-open Cunningham, who spun around Marcus Sherels on the way to the end zone, cutting it to 17-9.

Chicago used another trick play to tie it.

The Vikings' Andrew Sendejo tipped a pass right to Zach Miller in the end zone for a 20-yard touchdown. The trickery came on the two-point conversion.

Trubisky handed the ball to Howard, who gave it to Miller. Miller then pitched it to Trubisky, who ran it in on the right side to tie it at 17-all with 12:24 left in the game.

winning Olympic sprinter.

Already eliminated, Trinidad has lost six straight qualifiers. Using a roster entirely of players under 30, the Soca Warriors changed eight starters Friday at Mexico and wasted a second-half lead in a 3-1 loss.

Pulisic limped off the field during Friday's 4-0 rout of Panama after he was kicked in the back of the left calf by Michael Murillo. He said the calf was improving, but the water-logged sward limited the U.S. to jogging and some ball work behind the goal.

"Couldn't do much at training," Pulisic said. "I got to move around a little bit, and, yeah, kind of see where I was at."

Along with its statement, the TTFA emailed a photo from the Snow Classico four years ago, when the U.S. beat Costa Rica during a storm in Commerce City, Colorado.

"Hopefully," Arena said, "it doesn't snow tomorrow."

## Rain-soaked field obstacle for US reaching World Cup

Football Association said in a statement that water will be pumped off the track and "all parties are confident the game will be contested." It said the decision whether to use the field is up to the match commissioner, Hector Canchola of Mexico.

Hoisted on a shoulder of trainer Luis Ramirez, defender DeAndre Yedlin said he had not been carried onto a soccer field since he was 3 or 4.

"I would love to see one of these hotshot teams from Europe come here and play in our CONCACAF qualifying and really get a taste of this and see what that's about," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said. "This is like survival of the fittest. They could do one of those TV shows on this."

A temperature of about 80 is forecast. Arena predicted a slow and sloppy game.

"If after inspecting the field tomorrow morning the field conditions are not playable, then a decision will be made," U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati said. "But at this point, absolutely playable."

The U.S. would secure its eighth straight World Cup

berth with a win and almost certainly with a tie because of the Americans' superior goal difference.

A defeat would lead to elimination if Panama beats visiting Costa Rica and Honduras wins at home against Mexico in games that start simultaneously. If the U.S. loses and one of those fails to win, the Americans would advance to a two-match playoff next month against Australia or Syria. If



both Central American rivals fail to win, the U.S. would qualify even with a defeat.

Losses in home qualifiers to Mexico in November and Costa Rica last month put the U.S. in this precarious position. The

Americans had not entered their last qualifier uncertain of a berth since November 1989, when Paul Caligiuri's 30th-minute goal gave them a 1-0 win at Trinidad and put the U.S. in the World Cup for the first time since 1950.

"If you want to play in a World Cup, you deal with nights like tomorrow and you find a way to not only deal with them, but to come out on top in more of them than you don't," American captain Michael Bradley said.

Bradley said players will

be aware of the other scores, which will determine how much they need to press for goals or fall back.

"One million percent," Bradley said. "How could it not?"

Twenty-eight years ago, the U.S. needed a win and T&T would have reached its first World Cup with a draw.

"It was also what was on the line for U.S. Soccer. We were broke," Caligiuri said. "We'd be stripped from the World Cup and not host it in 1994. The majority of us would not have jobs. We wouldn't be playing professional soccer."

That match was in Port-of-Spain's National Stadium before an overflow crowd of 35,000. This one is 24 miles south near the world's largest methanol factory, in a 16-year-old, 10,000-capacity venue named after a gold medal-

# 76ers, Embiid agree on max contract extension



**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—The 76ers have put their trust in Joel Embiid.

Philadelphia bet its future on Embiid, signing one of the more talented, yet injury-prone, players in the game to a league maximum contract extension.

A person familiar with the situation tells The Associated Press that Embiid and the Sixers have agreed on a \$148 million, five-year extension and it could reach even more if the 7-foot center reaches certain incentives. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because the contract has not been officially announced.

The extension starts with the 2018-19 season. He'll make \$6.1 million this season in the final year of his rookie deal.

Embiid's career has been riddled with injuries dating to his college career at Kansas and all three seasons with the Sixers. Embiid, the No. 3 overall pick in the 2014 draft, played only 31 games last season and had minor surgery in March to repair a torn meniscus in his knee. He has yet to practice or play in the preseason and was not in Boston on Monday night for Philadelphia's preseason game.

He had more pressing matters to tend to back home.

"He's a difference maker," coach Brett Brown said Monday. "He has a chance to be great. There's still lots of work to be done. When you look at his body of work ... he's really only been playing basketball for six years, he's just scratching the surface."

The 23-year-old Embiid, a



native of Cameroon, was only recently cleared to participate in 5-on-5 drills but the Sixers must feel confident enough in his health to offer him the max deal.

Or worried enough to lose him down the line without striking a deal.

With his social media savvy and dominant offensive game, Embiid has become an instant fan favorite in Philadelphia. He's recently been spotted at Eagles games cheering on winning kicks and been caught on tape by fans running the city streets and playing late-night tennis.

But his popularity hasn't matched his production. The Sixers slapped him with minutes restrictions in his rookie season, even when he was healthy. The Sixers also held Embiid out for at least one game in back-to-back sets and his limited playing time was one reason he was not a strong enough candidate to win Rookie of the Year. He averaged 20.2 points and 7.8 rebounds last season.

He helped the Sixers win eight of 10 games in one stretch in January, a stunning run for a team that won 10 games the previous season.

mentored Mt. Carmel did made a final push in the fourth period behind Toves and Earl San Nicolas, who logged 4 and 6 points, respectively, to threaten Agape. However, Agape built enough cushion in the third period and drew one basket apiece from Xu and Zheng to foil the Knights' comeback bid and save the day for the defending champion.

Xu, the lone holdover from last season's champion team, finished with 14 points, while Bao chipped in 9, and Zheng added 7. Liang completed Agape's box scores with his 5 markers. Toves had 12 points on a losing effort, while San Nicolas contributed 8.

**Agape 35** — Xu 14, Bao 9, Zheng 7, Liang 5.

**MCS 30** — Toves 12, San Nicolas 8, Diaz 4, Steele 2, Borja 2, Tenorio 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 9-9, 18-17, 31-20, 35-30.

for Agape in their easy win over MBA with his 21 points, while Liang also broke into double figures, making 10.

Next up for Agape is its first round tormentor GCA Eagles. The Agape-GCA tiff will be played at the Torchbearers turf today, starting at 3:30pm. Two more matches are scheduled this afternoon with Saipan Community School hosting Seventh Day Adventist and MBA challenging Saipan International School at the latter's court in As Lito. Mt. Carmel will return to action this Friday and hopes to regain its winning form when it takes on SIS at the Geckos court.

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**AP** Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, left, does a post-up drill with teammate Justin Anderson at the end of the NBA basketball team's practice Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, in Camden, N.J.

Embiid had 32 points and seven rebounds in a Jan. 27 game against Houston and has not played or practiced since his he was hurt.

Embiid had adopted "The Process" as a nickname and was introduced as such as part of the pregame lineup festivities. Embiid waves his arms and exhorts fans to get louder as they chant "Trust the Process!"

The Sixers are counting on Embiid and No. 1 overall picks Ben Simmons and Markelle Fultz to carry the team from the bottom of the league into an Eastern Conference playoff team.

The Sixers will surely be protected in the deal if Embiid continues to deal with injuries that have him more on track to become the next Greg Oden instead of the next Anthony Davis.

But the flashes of brilliance have convinced team presi-

dent Bryan Colangelo and ownership that Embiid was worth the risk.

"In the time that he has been on the floor, we have seen him change completely the gym," Brown. "He does it with just his physical presence. He does it with a defensive mindset. And he does it with an offensive target that's different than anything else we have."

He didn't pick up a basketball until a few years ago, when a friend informed him that very few 7-footers succeed in soccer. A couple months later, Embiid was lured to a basketball camp in the capital of Yaounde run by NBA veteran Luc Mbah a Moute, one of just two players from Cameroon to have played in the NBA.

Mbah a Moute persuaded Embiid's parents to let him move 6,000 miles to Florida, and helped enroll him at Montverde Academy, one of the best high school programs in the country.

He played just 28 games in his lone season at Kansas and 31 in three years with the Sixers -- 59 games that matter in four years, worth \$148 million and counting.

onships in June, Keo Nakama Invitational in July, and the Micronesian Games in Yap, also in July.

## Tribune Sports Scores

### NFL STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	3	2	0	.600	89	74
N.Y. Jets	3	2	0	.600	92	106
New England	3	2	0	.600	148	142
Miami	2	2	0	.500	41	67

#### South

Jacksonville	3	2	0	.600	139	83
Houston	2	3	0	.400	144	130
Tennessee	2	3	0	.400	110	142
Indianapolis	2	3	0	.400	97	159

#### North

Pittsburgh	3	2	0	.600	99	89
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	90	97
Cincinnati	2	3	0	.400	84	83
Cleveland	0	5	0	.000	77	124

#### West

Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	164	111
Denver	3	1	0	.750	98	74
Oakland	2	3	0	.400	108	109
L.A. Chargers	1	4	0	.200	99	115

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	4	1	0	.800	137	99
Washington	2	2	0	.500	91	89
Dallas	2	3	0	.400	125	132
N.Y. Giants	0	5	0	.000	82	122

#### South

Carolina	4	1	0	.800	105	94
Atlanta	3	1	0	.750	104	89
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	93	78
Tampa Bay	2	2	0	.500	85	83

#### North

Green Bay	4	1	0	.800	137	112
Detroit	3	2	0	.600	123	97
Minnesota	3	2	0	.600	99	93
Chicago	1	4	0	.200	78	124

#### West

Seattle	3	2	0	.600	110	87
L.A. Rams	3	2	0	.600	152	121
Arizona	2	3	0	.400	81	125
San Francisco	0	5	0	.000	89	120

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Ballers Bros' Khristian Itaas is fouled by a Young Ballers' defender during their boys U16 division game in the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 late last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Big B's' Angelo Factor takes off for an open layup during their boys U19 match against the Island3rz.



A Big B's player stretches for a layup against an Island3rz defender.



A Warriors player goes up for a layup, while V-God's Dean Blake looks on.



Almost's Leroy Rangamar, right, dribbles past Paki 3's Leo Galarse.



Tinian Alpha Males' Anthony Borja pulls up for a point-blanked shot against the Ol'Aces' Jack Lizama.



Almost's Carl Aldan, third left, drives against three Paki 3's defenders.



Paki 3's' Peter Camacho, rights, unloads a short jumper against Almost's Ben Taisacan.



Dodgers beat  
Diamondbacks  
to return  
to NLCS

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Vikings spoil  
Trubisky's debut  
with Bears

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Agape snaps MCS' streak



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Agape Christian School's Arthur Liang, second left, is guarded by two Mt. Carmel School players during the second quarter of their middle school division game in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League yesterday at the ACS court in Middle Road.

By ROSELYN B. MONROY  
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REPORTER

**D**efending champion Agape Christian School got even with Mt. Carmel School after escaping with a 35-30 win in their second meeting in the regular season of the middle school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League yesterday at the ACS court in Middle Road.



The Torchbearers' victory also ended the Knights' run at seven games. Agape, which topped MCS in

last season's finale, 31-19, improved its record to 5-2 to remain at second place in the team standings. The defending champion lost its first meeting with rival Mt. Carmel, 16-32, and absorbed its second defeat

at the hands of Grace Christian Academy.

Agape used a 13-3 scoring spurt in the third quarter to avenge its first round loss to the Knights last Sept. 21. The See AGAPE on Page 26

## More work for CNMI women's team

By ROSELYN B. MONROY  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Women's National Team's recent loss to Guam in the Marianas Cup 2017 would not bring the squad down and instead will push the group to work harder and get ready for future tournaments.

The Guam Women's National Team eased past CNMI, 6-0, during last Sunday's match at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

"There are many things that we need to continue to work on and many lessons learned. We are using this experience (loss) as a motivator in preparing for



the upcoming tournaments and for the Marianas Cup 2018, which will be hosted here on Saipan," team manager Catherine Attao-Toves said.

Attao-Toves added that despite the defeat, the squad did well under the tough condition on game night, especially in the first half. The CNMI's female strikers played under the rain and in a bit of strong wind at the artificial turf of GFA.

"It was a challenge adjusting to the turf and weather. With the wind, rain and turf, it took us time to get our timing. However, we came out very confident and it showed. We stayed aggressive and had a couple of looks at the goal," she said.

Guam then made it a 2-0 lead in the 36th minute off a penalty shot from Skylerblu Johnson and that turned things against the CNMI.

See MORE on Page 26

## Over 100 swimmers join opening meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROY  
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REPORTER

More than 100 swimmers participated in the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation Opening Meet for the 2017-2018 season held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

All three swim groups in the CNMI—Saipan Swim Club, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan, and Dolphin Club Saipan—were represented in the first tournament of the season, which featured 17 events.

The timed competition (results will be considered for CNMI national and age group records) started with the second-longest race of



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Julia Jinang races in the 100m freestyle event in the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation Opening Meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

the day—the 800m freestyle. SSC's Jinju and Jinie Thompson, Sophia Gauran, and Anthony Camacho-Deleon

Guerrero saw action in the first event of the tournament.

Others races, in order, were the 100m butterfly, 200m

Northern Mariana Islands  
Swimming Federation

breaststroke, 100m backstroke, 200m freestyle, 400m individual medley, 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 400m freestyle, 100m breaststroke, 200m butterfly, 100m freestyle, 200m backstroke, 200m IM, 50m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, and the longest event of the day—the 1,500m freestyle. Siblings Lenno-suke and Jinnosuke Suzuki joined SSC senior Kento Aki-maru in the lung busting 30-lap race.

NMISF is still finalizing

See OVER on Page 26



Commonwealth bets had one more attempt in the first half (20th minute), a free kick, and a corner kick, while Guam scored its first goal in the 17th minute, courtesy of April Talledo.

"And even when Guam scored their first goal, we didn't let that bother us. The girls kept attacking and communicating," Attao-Toves said.

The CNMI made the first attempt in the 11th minute off Guine Borja's pass to a teammate, but Guam goalie Chyna Ramirez denied the visitors. The